赤き血の記
1
高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

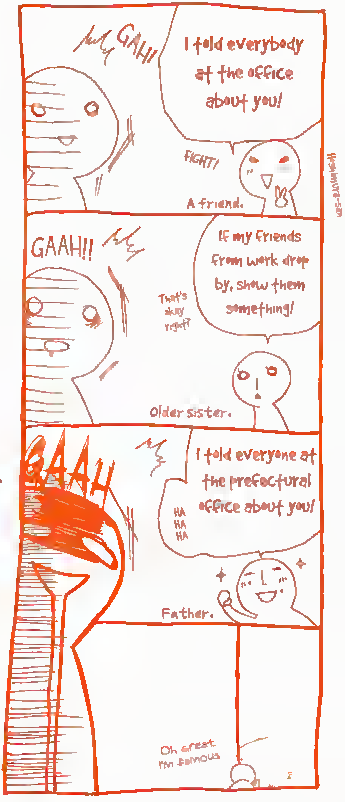
AMATSUKI ① TAKAYAMA SHINOBU

AMATSUKI 1

TAKAYAMA SHINOBU

ICHIJUNSHA

My cat likes to bake herself on the floor heater.



See you next time!

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雑誌 50633-09

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あまつき 1

高山しのぶ

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COMMENT

高山しのぶ

SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

実感があまりなくふわふわしている間に初単行本を出していただけることに。色々な方との縁と恩の結晶です。皆様、本当にありがとうございます…！今後ともよろしくです。

あまつき 1

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ZERO-SUM COMICS 既刊好評発売中

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最遊記	全9巻	峰倉かずや

B6判

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AMATSUKI
あまつき
Shinobu Takayama
1

AMATSUKI 1

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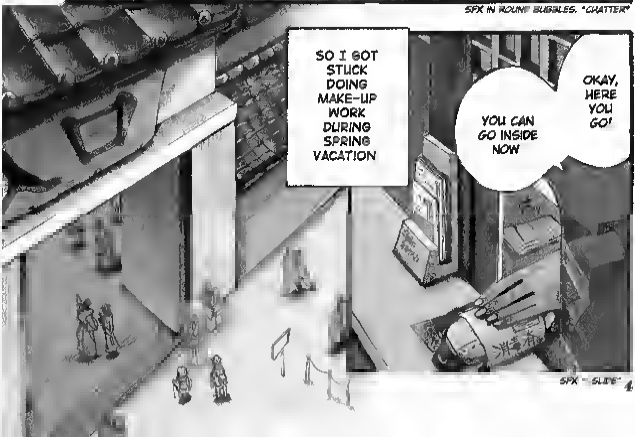
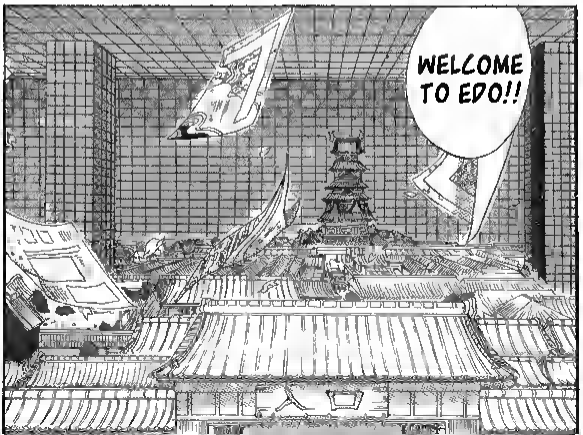
Chapter 1: Rainy Night Moon

SFX IN ROUND BUBBLES: "CHATTER"



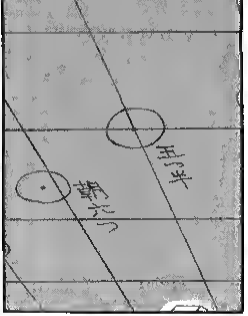
SFX: "SLIDE"

I GUESS THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE
HERE YOU GO! THIS IS YOUR TAG SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LOSE IT!
WOULD YOU LIKE A KIMONO? THEY'RE COMFORTABLE AND FUN TO WEAR, SO PLEASE TRY ONE
BUT I WASN'T THERE TO VISIT
YO3
LOOK AT THAT
IT'S HUGE
I GUESS I LUCKED OUT... THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD...


WELCOME TO EDO!!
入口

WOW, COOL!
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE REALLY OUTSIDE!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S A TRAVELLING EXHIBIT ABOUT THE CITY OF EDO AS IT WAS DURING THE END OF THE SHOGUNATE ERA.
THEY USED CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY AND THE LATEST IN COMPUTER GRAPHICS TO TOTALLY RECREATE THE TIME PERIOD
AND YOU GET A KIMONO AT THE DOOR TO ENHANCE THE GAME EXPERIENCE... BUT THE GOGGLES ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
SFX IN ROUND BUBBLES: "CHATTER"
JUST DON'T BREAK THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE REALLY EXPENSIVE
OKAY
THE WALLS AND CEILING OF THIS ROOM ARE LIKE A BLUE SCREEN, SO THE SCENERY AND SKY CAN BE PUT IN BY COMPUTER COMPOSITE

WHAT'S THAT UP THERE?
Huh!?
THAT MARKS THE POSITION OF THE SUN.



Hmmm
GLANCE

A LONG TIME AGO, PEOPLE USED TO TELL TIME BY THE SUN.
SO WITH THIS PEOPLE CAN KEEP TRACK OF WHERE THE SUN IS
OH, I SEE

I'M JUST HERE FOR EXTRA WORK BECAUSE I FAILED HISTORY
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF DETAILS
YOU JUST HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO IT YET.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING NOW, THIS IS BETTER THAN A TEXTBOOK.
GRIN
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT

RIKUGOU-KUN, DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO THAT IS?
HUH!?
That way over there.
OH, HEY MOMIJI. IT'S NO BIG DEAL, I WAS JUST TALKING TO THAT GUY. HE KNOWS A LOT OF TRIVIA
HEY, TOKI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU SHOULD STICK WITH US!!
I SEE...
YOU SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE WITH A REPUTATION LIKE THAT
THAT'S SHINONOME - HE GOT KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL FOR STARTING FIGHTS.

WELL, UM...
OH!
HEY, HAKAHARA-SAN, YOU'RE PRETTY INTO HISTORY, RIGHT?
HEY, NAKAHARA! WE'VE ACTUALLY GOT SOME FREE TIME SO LET'S DO SOMETHING!
A SUCKER LIKE YOU IS JUST GONNA GET USED! COME ON!
HE'S A HISTORICAL TV SHOW OTAKU.
THIS IS THE "LAIR FOR SAMURAI EPICS LIKE "MITO KOUMON" WITH GREAT ACTORS LIKE MATSUDAIRA KEN AND SUGI EYOU AKOU AND KATOU GOU
I WANT TO SNEAK ON TO THE SET!
Yeah, the dressing room kind.
See!
THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPHER'S MECCA!!
SHE MAKES EVERYTHING SO DRAMATIC
I think he's thinking.
LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
AH... UM...

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, PEOPLE HAD SWORDS AND STUFF... YOU NEVER KNEW IF THE NEXT GUY WAS GONNA KILL YOU...
SO...
I'M SORRY, MOMIJI-SAMA! WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GO OVER IT FOR YOU IN GREATER DETAIL?
NAKAHARA, DO YOU WANT ME TO HIT YOU?
WTF?
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THEY DID A REMAKE OF "MAKAI TENSHOU!?" I KNOW IT'S NOT LIKELY BUT I'D DO ANYTHING TO SEE IF IF THEY DID...
I GUESS THEY HAD TO LIVE LIKE EVERY DAY WAS THEIR LAST...
YOU COULD GET KILLED TOMORROW...
SO IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET LUCKY TALISMANS FROM SHRINES
IT WAS PRETTY HARD TO LIVE BACK THEN
IF ANYTHING, YOU WERE MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM ILLNESS OR FIRE OR A NATURAL DISASTER.
BACK THEN, PEOPLE BLAMED THOSE THINGS ON GODS OR SPIRITS
.....
ACTU-ALLY,
ONLY SAMURAI COULD CARRY SWORDS
AND SAMURAI DIDN'T JUST GO AROUND KILLING PEOPLE.

MAYBE IT MADE PEOPLE FEEL CLOSER TO EACH OTHER.
BUT I GUESS IT MADE YOU REALIZE THE VALUE OF YOUR LIFE
!!
WAH!!
I'LL EXPECT A WRITTEN REPORT WHEN YOU'RE DONE, SO PAY ATTENTION!
NOD NOD
SO LOOK TO THE PAST IN YOUR STUDIES!
WELL SAID!! YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY!! IT'S SAID THAT "TO LEARN NEW THINGS, ONE MUST STUDY THE OLD."
I BET HE OWNS HIS OWN COSTUME
I BET HE HAD IT CUSTOM-MADE
IF YOU SHAVE THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD, YOU'LL LOOK EVEN MORE COOL!
NAKA-HARA!?
COOL!?
I DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE THAT SHINONOME
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? OBVIOUSLY I'M A SAMURAI, AREN'T I?
SENSEI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

TEXT ON FAN: GOOD LUCK

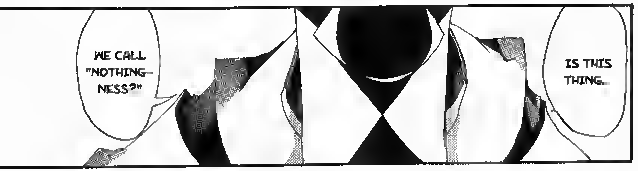
SFX IN ROUND BUBBLES: "CHATTER"

DID YOU SEE A GUY WITH DYED HAIR AND A UNIFORM LIKE MINE WALK PAST HERE?
AH... SORRY, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
UM...
HUH?
UM...
YEAH, HERE'S A WALL THERE, SO IT'S A NON-PLAYABLE AREA
THE STAFFS WEAR GOGGLES TOO, JUST LIKE THE GUESTS
DON'T FEEL BAD - IT'S HARD EVEN FOR STAFF LIKE ME TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE SOMETIMES
HE HA HA HA HA
PAT
PAT
HEY, KID, HE'S JUST COMPUTER GENERATED!
HUH!?

YOU CAN HIRE A PALANQUIN AT THE SHOP IF YOU'RE RUNNING LATE
AND AROUND CLOSING TIME, YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR GOGGLES AND LOOK UP AT THE BLUE-SCREEN CEILING. THERE ARE SIGNS POINTING TO THE EXIT.
OH, OKAY.
OH
THANKS
HERE'S A GUIDE MAP - THIS PLACE IS BIG, BUT THERE ARE SOME PLACES YOU CAN'T GO, SO DON'T GET LOST
clutter
OKAY, SO I CAN'T GO THIS WAY, SO I'LL JUST RE-TRACE MY STEPS...
LET'S SEE
MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND SOMETIME!
SFX: ~SQUEAK~
SFX: ~SHOCK~

SFX: -HISS-
SFX: -THE SOUND OF A GONG OR LARGE BELL-
(NO, I FOUND EXACTLY WHAT THAT WOULD BE IN ENGLISH

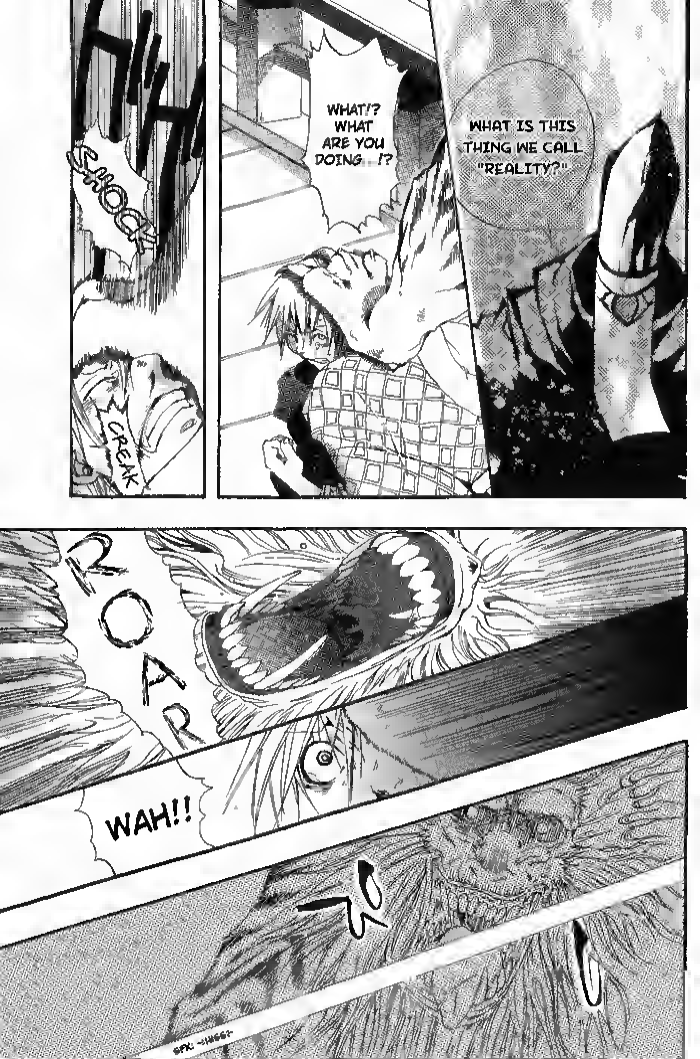
WHAT...
IS THIS PART OF THE GAME...? IT'S KIND OF CHEESY...
IT'S NOT EVEN THAT SCARY...
GROWL
WHA...
WHAT THE ?


WE CALL "NOTHING-NESS?"
IS THIS THING...

IT'S AW-FULLY CLOSE THOUGH...
Very realistic
BLINK

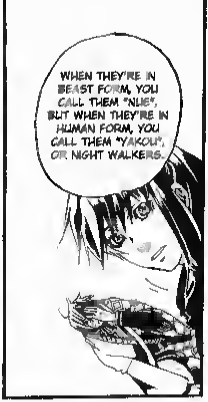
OH, I GUESS THAT'S ONE OF THOSE NON-PLAYABLE AREAS

SFX: ~LEAP!~
SFX: ~THUD!~
GROWL
WH... WHAT ...!?
GAAH!!
GROWL


SHOCK
CREAK
WHAT!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
WHAT IS THIS THING WE CALL "REALITY?"
ROAR
WAH!!

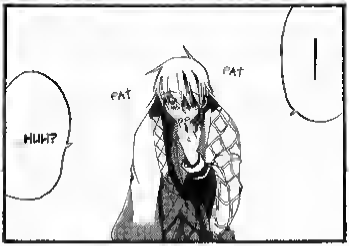
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE! RUN!!
!?
SFX: -SPLATTER-

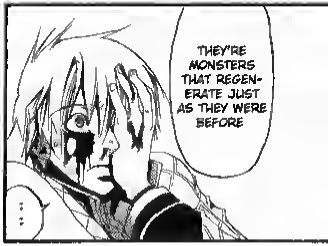
TCH!
EEK!
PATTER
whoosh
DAMN IT.
YEAH, BASTARD, RUN AWAY LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO...
HEY, KID, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU GOT ATTACKED BY A NUE...
WHO ARE YOU?

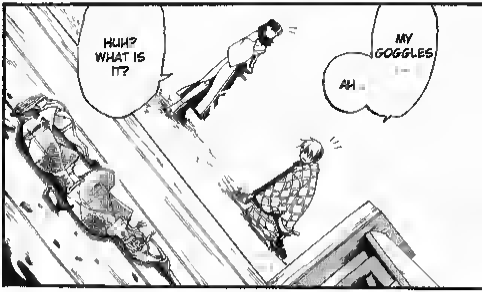


SFX: -TREMBLE-

SFX: -WALKING-





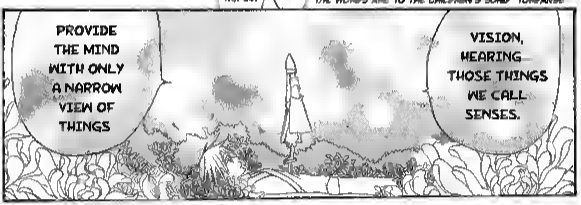


SFX: -GULP-

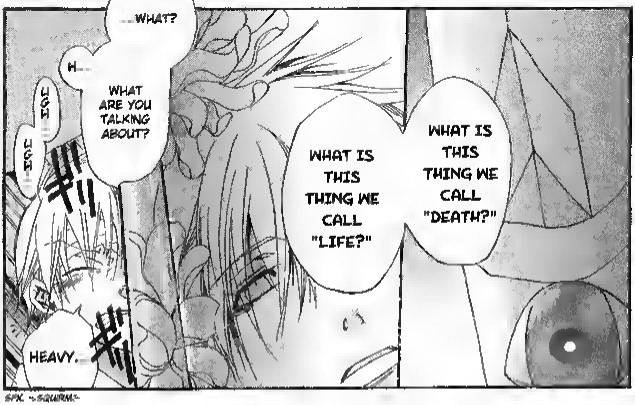
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE BLUE SCREEN...
AH...
WHAT'S... THIS...?
MY GOGGLES ARE OFF, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIELING AND THE WALLS...?

WHAT'S WRONG, KID?
HMM?
AH!
HUH?
YOU

HUMANS ARE RULED BY REASON.
What is this narrow passage-way?
Let me pass.
ちりーん
ちりーん
The way back is much harder
Going there is fine but
SFX: "THAT BELL OR GONG SOUND AGAIN"
THE WORDS ARE TO THE CHILDREN'S SONG "TORYANSE"


PROVIDE THE MIND WITH ONLY A NARROW VIEW OF THINGS
VISION, HEARING... THOSE THINGS WE CALL SENSES.

SO, CHILD WHAT IS THIS THING WE CALL "REALITY"?


WHAT?
H...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
USH
USH
HEAVY...
WHAT IS THIS THING WE CALL "LIFE?"
WHAT IS THIS THING WE CALL "DEATH?"

SFX: ~SQUIRM~

SO YOU'RE AWAKE?
SHO--CK
.....

WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!!
SFX: -THUD-
MY NAME IS RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI
UM...
I WAS AT A MUSEUM EXHIBIT ABOUT THE EDO PERIOD
AND
!!
!
SFX: -GASP-
SORRY, KID. YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?
TOK
UM.
NOT ANY-MORE
HE'S HURT, AND YOU'RE CRUSHING HIM!!!
YOU'RE A FUCKING IDIOT!!!
LOOK, YOU KILLED HIM!!!
SFX: -ANGER-

THIS HAS TO BE A DREAM.
HOW!?
IT'S REALLY
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
SFX: "ISLAM"
I'M NOT WEARING THE GOGGLES
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING THAT YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR FRIEND'S FACES AGAIN.
DANGLE
AH
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'LL BE KEPT HERE

AH!
GASP.
YOU!!!
THAT NUE GUY HAS TO BE THE KEY
AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I DISAPPEARED
YOU'RE... SHINONOME!!?
HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
I TOLD YOU, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
SOME STUFF ARE A LITTLE HAZY, YOU KNOW?
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
IT'S ME!
DON'T YOU RECOGNISE ME!?
HEY, CALM DOWN!
SFX: =WAAAH!=
THEN YOU'RE BOTH...
TRAPPED IN THIS WORLD.

"WHAT IF THERE'S SOMEPLACE OTHER THAN THIS WORLD?"

BUT THEN THERE WAS THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN ME

AND EVERYONE ELSE

AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT.

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VOLUME 1

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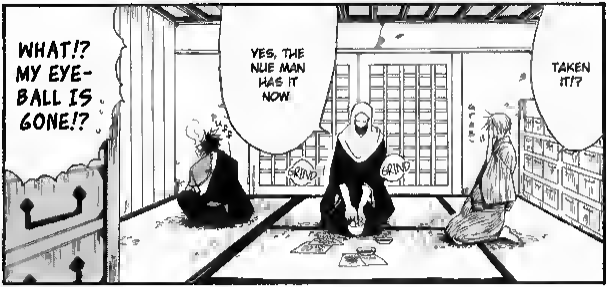
高山しのぶ
TAKAYAMA
http://www.hana_mi.net/

HANAMI

Chapter 2: The Distant Capital

SO HOW DOES IT LOOK, OLD WOMAN? HIS EYE, I MEAN
HMM...
I'M AFRAID
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN
slash
HE'S TAKEN IT


WHAT!? MY EYE-BALL IS GONE!?
YES, THE NUE MAN HAS IT NOW
TAKEN IT!?
GRIND
GRIND
SLASH

JUST YOUR EYESIGHT WAS STOLEN.
NO, NO
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PURPOSE COULD BE...
UNLESS...
HEY!
whoosh
WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE THE NUE ATTACKED ME TOO
ugh
AND IT TOOK MY RIGHT ARM.
I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BELOW THE ELBOW.
AND I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MOVE IT LIKE THIS
THERE'S NOT MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE AGAINT A NUE'S POWER.
slide
YOU SHOULD ASK A BUDDHIST PRIEST - THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NO DOCTOR CAN CURE

THANK YOU
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
ペコ

FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD REST THAT EYE
WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE PRIEST LATER? YOU SHOULD BRING HIM AN OFFERING, TOO

IT'S JUST TERRIBLE THAT YOU'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THIS... I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.
tousle
(wah!)

?

I DID WANT TO DO SOME SIGHT-SEEING...
WELL, UM...
smile

THIS PLACE SURE IS BIG.
SFX IN OVAL BUBBLES
CHATTER
OH...
YOU MEAN THE PRIEST?
THERE'S SOMEBODY YOU'VE GOTTA MEET. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN WE GET THERE

AROUND HERE, SHORT, BLEACHED HAIR IS GONNA STAND OUT.
A GUY WITHOUT A TOP-KNOT LOOKS WEIRD
COVER YOUR HEAD
HUH?
FLOP
WHAT!?

YOU'LL TAKE ALL THE WOMEN.
smirk
THEY MIGHT THINK
AND POSSIBLY CRIMINALS
OUTSIDERS ARE SUSPICIOUS
whisper
whisper
laugh
SFX: -WHAT???-
RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI
AND YOU ARE—?
SO WHY DON'T WE START WITH A LITTLE SELF-INTRODUCTION? I'M SHINONOME KON
sob
AT LEAST UNTIL THEY GET TO KNOW YOU
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'VE GOT ME TO LOOK OUT FOR YA
YOU LOOK KINDA DAZED I GUESS THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE
!!!
IT'S JUST TOKI GOT IT NOW?
THAT'S A WEIRD NAME FROM NOW ON,
POINT

I WASN'T THE KIND OF GUY THAT ANYONE WOULD MISS IF I DISAPPEARED ANYWAY, SO TIME JUST DRAGGED ON.
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHY THIS HAD HAPPENED TO ME.
WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE
I PANICKED
I SAW A LOT OF WEIRD THINGS, BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK FOR ME TO WAKE UP.
BUT THAT OLD WOMAN PICKED ME UP, AND I STARTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PLACE.
THAT NUE GUY, MY ARM, EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE— IT WAS TOO MUCH
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GONNA GO SEE THE PRIEST.
THE OLD WOMAN ISN'T TOO INTERESTED IN YOUKAI STUFF LIKE THAT NUE, THOUGH

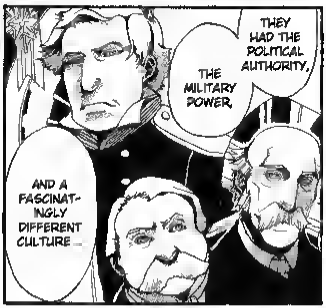
THAT MONKEY-FACED MONSTER WAS ONE.
BUT THEY DON'T ALL LOOK LIKE THAT.
THEY'RE KIND OF LIKE GHOSTS.

YOUKAI ? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU SAW IT TOO

BUT AREN'T YOU THE GUY WHO FAILED JAPANESE HISTORY?
I think you mean "done" that "dumb"
YOU'RE GETTING A LOT CLOSER TO THE EDO PERIOD THAN YOU WOULD IN A HISTORY CLASS...
YEAH, WELL
SOME OF THEM ALMOST LOOK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE
HUH? NO WAY!!
JEEZ, AM I GONNA HAVE TO LECTURE YOU? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE EDO PERIOD IS...?
Ah...
IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD TIME EVEN FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE.
THE EDO PERIOD WAS A PRETTY PEACEFUL TIME
whine
Nooo not japanese history. I don't wanna hear this...
THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T CHANGE FOR ABOUT 250 YEARS, SO...

THERE'S A STRANGE FEELING OF LIFE IN THE AIR...
THERE ARE BUSY SHOPS EVERY-WHERE!
THE STREETS ARE FULL OF PEOPLE...
YEAH...
EVERY-ONE WALKS STRAIGHT AND PROUD
LIKE THEY'RE HAPPY TO BE ALIVE!
EDO IS GOING TO COME TO AN END SOON
YEAH, WELL
OOF
DRAS
.....

THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO ACCEPTED THEM, AND SOME PEOPLE WHO HATED THEM.
BUT AS SOON AS FOREIGNERS FOUND OUT THEY STARTED COMING HERE.
FOR A LONG TIME, THE REST OF THE WORLD DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS PLACE.


THEY HAD THE POLITICAL AUTHORITY,
THE MILITARY POWER,
AND A FASCINATINGLY DIFFERENT CULTURE...

BUT THE FOREIGNERS KEPT COMING, AND THE GOVERNMENT COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT
THEY WERE TOO STRONG

HE'S JUST TRYING TO BLEND IN!

SO THAT'S WHY MY HAIR WAS A PROBLEM, AND THAT'S WHY SHINONOME IS WEARING THOSE CLOTHES...
AND THAT HAIR STYLE.
IT WAS ALSO... A TIME OF ANXIETY AND SUSPICION...
!
OH, NOW I SEE...

I'M KIND OF EMBARASSED
AND THEY'RE ALL REALLY STRONG TOO
BLUSH
YEAH, IT CAN BE PHYSICALLY TOUGH HERE, TOO
HEY, EVERYBODY IS SO SHORT
OR IS IT JUST THAT WE'RE TOO TALL?
SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE... WELL, YOU'RE SEEING IT NOW.
I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO SEE SOMETHING WITH MY OWN EYES BEFORE I CAN REALLY BELIEVE IT
Huuuh?
WHAT? BUT THERE'S ALL KINDS OF WEIRD SHIT MIXED IN
...I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND THIS HISTORY STUFF... IT'S NOT AS HARD AS I THOUGHT...
SPIC -SOURCE-
?

SFX: JUMP
SFX: SHOCK
SFX: JURG E
SFX: STUMP
SFX: MISS
!!?
THIS KIND IS CALLED A "SANSHI" THEY'RE BASICALLY HARMLESS LITTLE THINGS
FINCH
OH, THIS? THERE WAS A YOUKAI ON THAT GUY AND HE DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT

YOU LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, BUDDY?
HE'H

I MEANT THE GUY BEHIND YOU
HUH?
NO

SFX: =FLAILING ARMS=

SFX: =THUD=

SFX: =WHOOSH=

SFX: LOTS OF SCREAMING AND FIGHTING NOISES HERE~

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!?
HEY!!
WHAT!?
THIS IS TOO MUCH! I'M OUTTA HERE!!
You gonna take your fights somewhere else, then!?
This is pretty sad...
COME ON SHAMON-SAMA IS WAITING FOR YOU
TURN
OH YEAH...
HOW'S THAT EYE?
HMM...
WELL, IT DOESN'T HURT, BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WITH IT...
I THOUGHT SO...
UM...
IT'S KINDA LATE, BUT...
THANKS FOR SAVING ME
DO I GET TO KNOW YOUR NAME?

I'M KUCHIHA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
SINCE I HANG OUT WITH THAT SHINONOME JERK, YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM, BUT DON'T WORRY. I'M NOTHING AT ALL LIKE HIM.
IT'S NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM WHEN I MET HIM...
YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRD GUY...
Ooh Kuchiha huh? I'm Toki~ Nice to meet you too!
NAH...
BUT I THINK YOU HAVE A LOT OF GUTS.
YOU BOTH ACT LIKE NOTHING CAN SHAKE YOU.
I'M NOT... IT'S JUST THAT WHEREVER I GO...

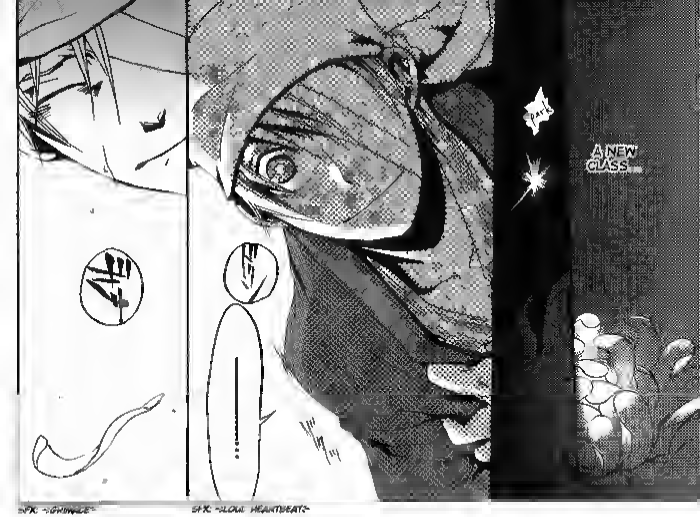
PEOPLE...
THINGS...
SOUNDS...
EVERY-THING FELT SO FAR AWAY
REAL LIFE WAS JUST SO BORING.
I DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANYONE OR ANY-THING ELSE.
WHAT-EVER I DO
WHO-EVER I MEET
NOTH-ING
NEVER WORKS OUT RIGHT FOR ME
SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THIS WORLD —?
This feels right
BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW
WHATEVER

WHAT-EVER HAPPENS TO ME.
WHERE-EVER I GO.
WHAT-EVER I DO.
BUT IT FEELS SO UNREAL.
I'M ALWAYS SMILING. ALWAYS TRYING TO FIT IN.
I GUESS...
I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPY.
IT'S LIKE I'M JUST WATCH-ING IT ON A TV SCREEN.
WHETHER I'M ALIVE OR DEAD.

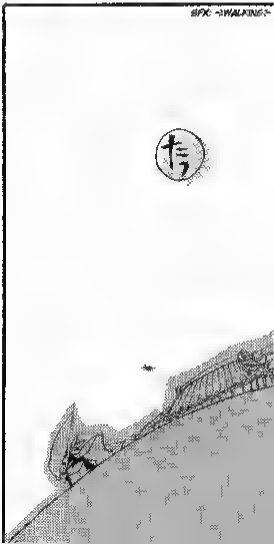
IF YOU CAN LIVE SO HALF-HEARTEDLY,
THEN I GUESS YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT STARVING TO DEATH OR GETTING KILLED
...OW!!
SFX: -SLAP-
I'M JEALOUS
WHAT AN EASY LIFE THAT MUST BE
BUT YOU...
BECAUSE I HATE STUPID PEOPLE
I HAD IT OUT WITH THAT GUY EARLIER...

YOU..
JUST PISS ME OFF..
I... I, UH
MAN, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO WOMEN.
slow
stomp
/
B... BUT...
YOU CAN TALK UNTIL YOU RUN OUT OF WORDS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SHE S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY

AS FAR AS SHE'S CONCERNED PEOPLE WHO LIVE A PRIVELEGED LIFE AREN'T WORTH LISTENING TO
DOES THAT MAKE ANY KIND OF SENSE?
BUT HE JUST CALMLY ACCEPTS IT...
I GUESS THINGS ARE SMOOTHER THAT WAY.
IT'S LIKE BEING IN A NEW SCHOOL...


A NEW CLASS...
SFX: -LIGHTNING-
SFX: -SLOW HEARTBEAT-

WE'RE HERE
THIS IS SHAMON-SAMA'S PLACE.


SFX: -WALKING-

A TEMPLE ...?
COME THIS WAY, AND BE QUIET
SFX IN BUBBLE: ~HEARTBEAT~

COME ON, WAKE UP, YOU'VE GOT GUESTS
SHAMON-SAMA...
HEY!
SFX: -KICK-
SFX: -SURPRISE-
He's drunk
DROOL
nod
SFX: -SCRAGH-
OWWW
sitting up
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I WAS JUST PRACTICING THE SCRIPTURES
RENOUNCING THE WORLD AND ALL THAT...
SILENCE
Is he dead...?
DEEP BREATH
...
OW
HUH?

SFX: -A SUDDEN MOTION-
WELL, WELL, NOW YOU'VE GOT ME REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO!!
HA HA
UGH!
BEER BREATH
OHH, THIS MUST BE THE KID YOU MENTIONED!!
OH, WHOOPS, PARDON ME. MY NAME IS SHAMON
NICE TO MEET YOU, KIDDO!!
WELCOME, MY STRANGE GUEST!

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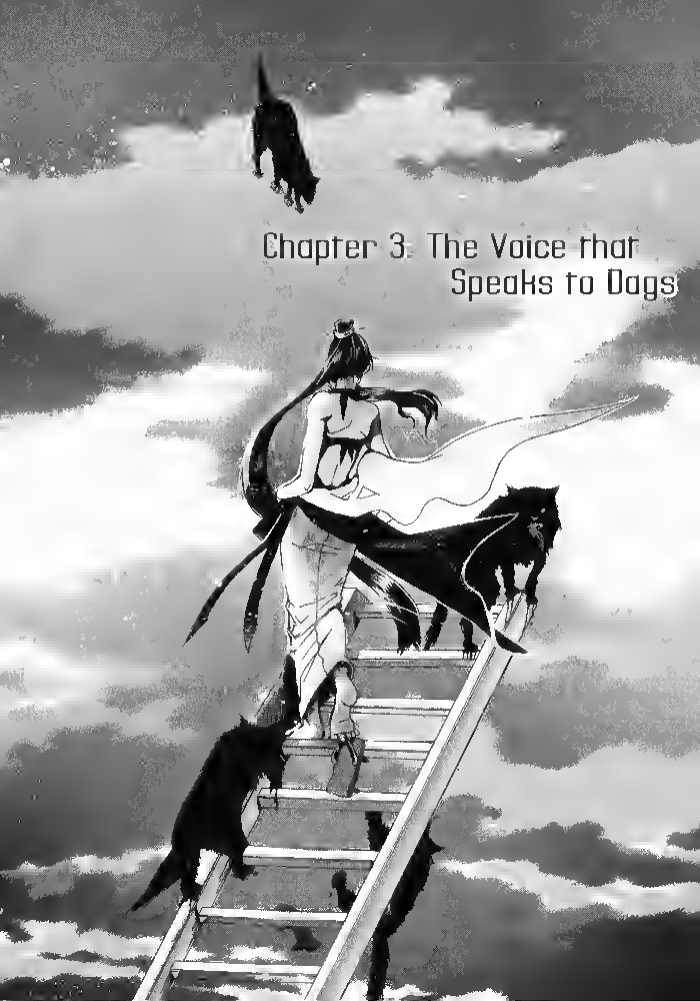
HANAMI

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

AND THEN I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT THIS WORLD.

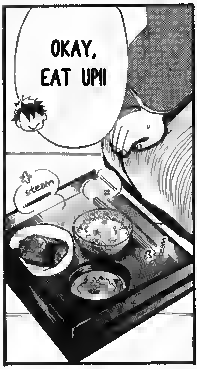

Chapter 3: The Voice that
Speaks to Dogs

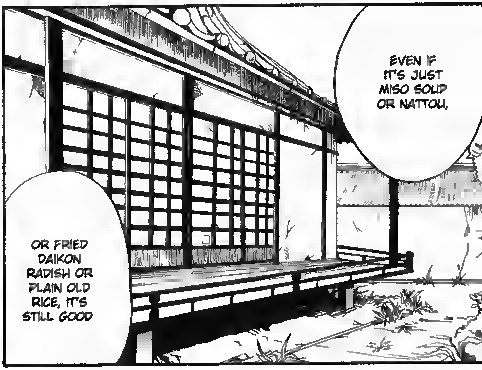
FIRST, BOIL SOME FRESH CLAMS IN SAKE,
THEN COOK THE RICE IN THE BROTH.
BUBBLE
AND THEN YOU STIR-FRY IT WITH A LITTLE DRIED FISH FLAKES
You need a little miso & soy sauce too.
MAKE SURE YOU MIX IT WELL!
YEAH, THE SAKE AND SOY SAUCE GIVE THEM FLAVOR.
HUH?
HUH?
GRATE
GRATE
TA! SHE'S GRATING THE DRIED FISH
TADA
What are you doing over there?
What...?
BEHOLD!! I HAVE CREATED CLAM RICE!

MM...
LESS TALK, MORE FOOD.
door opens
What is he gonna have me do with any of that?
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR CRAP LIKE THAT! YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO TELL ME STUFF!
HUH?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT !!
SFX: GAAAH!!

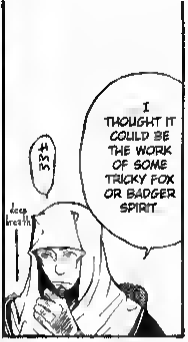
KON'S A GREAT COOK!! COME ON, EVERYBODY, YOU CAN JUST EAT IT RIGHT OFF THE FLOOR!!
Drop it
What the...
SHAMON-SAN...

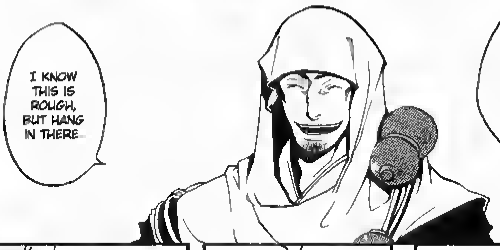

OKAY, EAT UP!!
steam


EVEN IF IT'S JUST MISO SOUP OR NATTOU,
OR FRIED DAIKON RADISH OR PLAIN OLD RICE, IT'S STILL GOOD

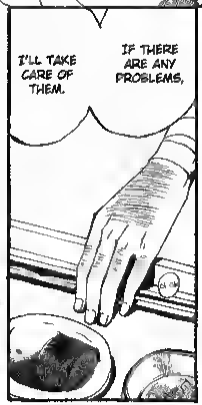
ISN'T IT GOOD?
SMI LE
HEY, YEAH, IT IS...
I really love it
YEAH, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT GOOD FOOD, LIFE AIN'T THAT BAD, HUH?
HUH ?
AND THE WATER FOR COOKING CAME FROM A SPRING THAT FLOWS UNDER THE TEMPLE AROUND HERE,
CLACK
THOSE CLAMS...
THEY CALL THE WATER FROM THAT SPRING "WATER OF HEAVEN."
FOLKLORE HAS IT THAT IT'S A POISON AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS.
SPEW!!
HAHA, IT'S TOTALLY HARMLESS TO NORMAL PEOPLE, THOUGH.
SORRY, I WAS JUST MAKING SURE.

THIS REALLY DOES REMIND ME OF WHEN I MET KON


I THOUGHT IT COULD BE THE WORK OF SOME TRICKY FOX OR BADGER SPIRIT
hmm
deep breath


I KNOW THIS IS ROUGH, BUT HANG IN THERE
DON'T WORRY, KID! I'LL HELP YOU OUT UNTIL YOU GET SETTLED IN!!

SO...
YOUR NAME WAS TOKI, RIGHT?
I'M GUESSING YOU CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD LIKE KON, RIGHT?


I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.
IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS,

AH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT BORROWING MONEY, I'VE GOT ENOUGH.
I'M A PRETTY INFLUENTIAL GUY AROUND HERE.

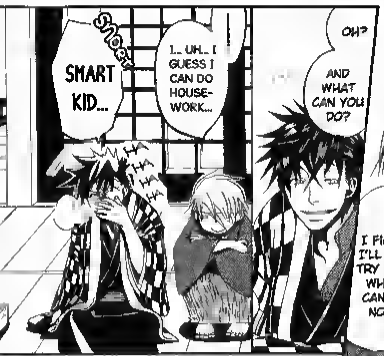
IT CAN'T BE DONE
AND I'M SURE YOU WANT TO GO HOME...
WELL, YEAH...
UM...
YEAH..
It's kind of weird when you say it like that.
BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP YOU
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THE WRONG TIME, BUT...
KON HAS ADJUSTED WELL ENOUGH TO THIS PLACE.
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SEND YOU BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'RE THE KEY.
YOU'VE BOTH BEEN DRAGGED HERE BY THE NUE AND THE YAKOU

IF ONLY WE COULD CAPTURE THEM...
THEY APPEAR TO BE SOME STRANGE KIND OF YOUKAI...
OKAY, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
HM—
—M!
IF WE COULD GET SOME INFORMATION, WE COULD FIGURE THIS OUT!
INFOR-MA-TION GATH-ERING!
TADAAA!
AND I'LL DO SOME INFORMA-TION GATH-ERING.
HUH?
OF COURSE !!
KUCHIHA, CAN I TROUBLE YOU WITH THEM AGAIN?
GUDDAA
BUT...
I AM A YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR!
BUT ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN'T SEE YOUKAI, RIGHT...?
.....

I BET YOU'RE FEELING LIKE YOU'RE TRAPPED ON ALL SIDES, HUH?
HEY...

MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
GO AHEAD

YOU'RE AWFULLY LAID BACK
I DUNNO
NOT REALLY


SMART KID...
SIGH
I... UH... I GUESS I CAN DO HOUSE-WORK...
AND WHAT CAN YOU DO?
OH?

NO WAY.
I'M THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
I FIGURE I'LL JUST TRY TO DO WHAT I CAN FOR NOW

I MEAN, THE WAY I SEE IT,
TAKING IN SOME WEIRD STRANGER WAS GOT TO BE A BOTHER
...
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY...
I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN...
BUT REALLY, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY I CAN HELP SHAMON-SAN.
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT THEY'RE RECKLESS
THEY JUST HAVE A CERTAIN SENSE OF PRIDE...
YOU'VE GOTTA GET TO KNOW THEM.
HERE, IT'S KIND OF "COOL."
TAP
TAP
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY ALL FOR SHOW, BUT
THEY'RE WILLING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LOSS FOR THEM.
YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYINGS "EVEN IF A SAMURAI IS HUNGRY HE'LL CHEW ON A TOOTHPICK AND PRETEND HE'S EATEN A FULL MEAL." "I'D PAWN MY OWN WIFE TO BUY THE FIRST FISH OF THE SEASON."
THEY'RE STUPID, BUT I CAN RESPECT THEM.

KINDA SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY WELL-DONE HISTORICAL VIDEO GAME, HUH?
...A GAME?
COME ON...

HEH.
I'M A NICE GUY, TOKI-KUN.
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
HUH...?
STUFF LIKE THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN MANGA AND NOVELS.
A TIME SKIP STORY, YOU KNOW?

WAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? QUIT IT!!
Mr. WAVE
.....

LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD

YOU'RE BLIND IN YOUR LEFT EYE...
SO HOW DID YOU SEE MY BLIND MOVE?

WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
AH...

WELL, NOW...
THAT'S STRANGE...
YOU SEE...
I WAS IN YOUR BLIND SPOT, AND YET YOU MOVED TO AVOID ME

THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY EASY FOR YOU SINCE YOU CAME - YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE GETTING FOOD.
AND NO ONE HAS REALLY BEEN AGAINST YOU.
WHAT...
IS THIS ...?
WHAT IS... THIS PLACE!?
—NOW THAT YOU KNOW, I'M GOING BACK INSIDE
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID BEFORE?
"THIS WORLD IS COMING TO AN END."

.....
.....
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE
I REALLY CAN'T SEE OUT OF MY LEFT EYE, HUH...?
I DIDN'T THINK THAT WOULD WORK.
!?
WHEN I DO THIS, I CAN'T SEE A THING...
WHYYYYYYYY?
whine
whine
What did I do differently before?

BARBARIAN an insulting term used to describe foreigners during the Edo Period

SFX: -SHUDDER-
HHH...
B... BAR-BAR-IAN?
DAMN...
BAR-BAR-IAN, HUH?
THAT'S KINDA LIKE...
THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, HUH--?

THIS IS BAD...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
!!
I HATE THIS...
I AM SO SCREWED!!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

TCH...
MISSED
!!
YOU FOR-EIGNERS ARE GOING TOO FAR, ALWAYS STANDING IN THE EMPEROR'S WAY!!
THIS IS JUSTICE !!

!
SFX: -CRASH-

CRASH

SFX: SLAP
ANGER
WHO...
WHO ARE YOU...!?
SFX: SLAP
KUCHI-HA!?
LORD SAMURAI.

I APOLOGISE FOR THE DISTURBANCE.
PLEASE FORGIVE US...
THIS BOY IS NOT A FOREIGN BARBARIAN
HE IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE PRIEST HERE

HEY, IS THAT A GIRL?
!
Surprise

HUH ?
BOOORING
I GUESS THAT'S IT
mutter
mutter

HEH
JEEZ
YEAH
FINE, WHATEVER.

mutter
Uh, what?
!
mutter
IT WAS DARK SO I COULDN'T SEE
HUH!?
mutter
REALLY!?
mutter
A WOMAN!?
THEY LET A PATHETIC WOMAN CARRY A SWORD!
mutter

IF YOU MAKE THEM MAD AGAIN, YOU COULD BE KILLED!
YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO THE TEMPLE, QUICK!
WHAT THE
GRAB
KUCHI-HA!
UNLIKE YOU, I CAN ACTUALLY TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
KUCHIHA, THEY'RE GOING TO
SFX: SLAM!
STOP...
!
SFX: GRAB!
ALRIGHT, LET'S MAKE SURE SHE REALLY IS A GIRL!!
!!

I OUGHTA TEST IT OUT
I JUST SHARPENED MY SWORD YESTERDAY...
YOU WANNA FIGHT?
< sfx toss >
AHH! IT BURNS!
HE THREW DIRT IN MY EYES...!?
WAHH ...!?
!?
RUNNING
HEY, YOU!!
HA HA HA HA!
TAKE HER CLOTHES OFF!
TAKE HER CLOTHES OFF!
Sfx shock
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?
TRY TO STOP ME, NO YOU'RE DEAD

LET HER GO!
AH!
SFX: -KICK-
LET..
FUCK YOU!
I'M GONNA KILL HER!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!?
T
U
D
yank
JUST BE QUIET
...HUH!?
GRAB
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
IT WOULD TAKE A MAN WITH REAL BALLS...
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY TO KILL ME.
SFX: EEEE

TO SPILL A DROP OF MY BLOOD.
WHAT...
WHAT IS SHE DOING...!?
THE CHOSEN ONE OF THE DOG GOD.
SURPRISE
YOU'RE DEALING WITH...
SHE'S POSSESSED!?
SFX: SCREAM
LET HER GO!!
SHE'LL CURSE YOU!

SILENCE
running
WAHH!
RUN!!
running
RUN!
running
HEY...
!
THE DOG GOD ...?
SFX: GRAB
!
YOU'RE HURT ...!!
ARE YOU OKAY?
KUCHI-HA...!
touch
SFX: SHOVE

YOU'RE TEN YEARS TOO EARLY TO BE SAVING ME!!
YOU'RE JUST A BURDEN ON US!!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING!?
DID YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST RUN AWAY!?
I SAW A GIRL IN DANGER!
H...
HEY!!
SHAMON-SAMA TOLD ME TO WATCH YOU.
AND YOU GO GET-TING YOUR-SELF IN TROU-BLE!!
THINK ABOUT THE PO-SITION YOU'RE IN!!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTH WORRYING ABOUT.
whoosh

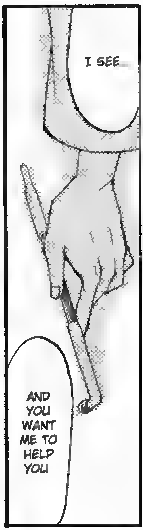
I KNOW...
!!
ALL ABOUT THAT.

I...
I DON'T THINK I COULD GET DOWN ON MY HANDS AND KNEES AND TAKE THE BLAME FOR SOMEBODY ELSE
GRUMBLE
I COULD NOT TAKE A HIT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE
BUT...
SHE DID IT EVEN THOUGH SHE HATES ME...!
I WAS SHAKING
I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER...
I KNOW I'M SELFISH!!
BUT I STILL
I CAN'T HELP THE WAY I FEEL!!

YOU DO KNOW...
surprise
THAT IN THIS TIME PERIOD,
THERE ARE LAWS AGAINST PERSONAL FIGHTS, AND THE PUNISHMENTS ARE STRICT.
THE AUTHORITIES DON'T SHY AWAY FROM THE DEATH PENALTY.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO THOSE MEN WERE?
AND IF YOU DID, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
!!
I DON'T WANT YOU BEING A BOTHER TO SHAMON-SAMA!!
B..
BUT...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO

HEY THERE AREN'T ANY LAWS HERE THAT DEAL WITH THE SUPER-NATURAL, RIGHT?
?
surprise
SO MAYBE THERE'S STILL NOTHING I CAN DO, BUT I'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL I TRY!

OKAY
IT'S PAYBACK TIME.


I SEE...
AND YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU

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HANAMI

Chapter 1: Not Quite A Yokou

THIS WAY.
IT'S DARK, SO WATCH YOUR STEP.
BANG
HEY, HYOTTOKO!
GET UP AND OPEN THE GATE!
YAJI : HYOTTOKO IS A SORT OF CLOWN CHARACTER FROM NOH THEATRE, WITH LARGE ROUND EYES.
CREAK
.....
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?
MY NAME...

HUH?
HOW?
Hiiyah
Whoosh
IS HEHA-CHI!!
EEE!
SHOVE
You used that + keep it inside your mouth, sensei!
IT WAS YOUR OWN FAULT!!
YOU OWE ME FOR THAT PAPER LANTERN!
NOTEXXXX
OW!!
SPIC -STRESSING TOGETHER-

NAH, IT'S NOT ME THIS TIME. IT'S HIM.
REACHING
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT, KON? CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN?
SFX: =TOO SHOCKED TO SPEAK=
.....?
UH... HI.
ぽかーん
GASP
UM, HI, I'M TOKI... I WAS BORN AND RAISED RIGHT HERE IN JAPAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU, HEIHACHI-SAN.
!
OMM
CRUNCH
DON'T SAY A WORD,
YOU FREAK!
KYAAA
WASH!

SO COOL
?
!!!
pain
.....

THIS IS MY HOUSE.
SFX: SHOJI OPENING

HYOT-TOKO IS FINE
SO UNCOOL
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? GET MOVING!

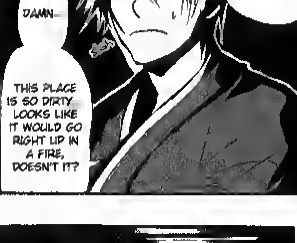
YEAH, I GOT SICK OF KUCHIHA'S NAGGING, SO EVEN THOUGH THIS PLACE IS SMALL, IT'S COMFORTABLE
I THINK WE'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE

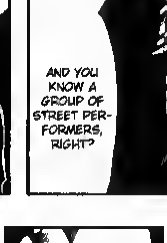
YEAH, I DO ODD JOBS AT THE ESTATE NEARBY, AND IN RETURN, THEY LET ME LIVE HERE.
BUT DON'T YOU LIVE AT THE TEMPLE?
SWEEP
SWEEP
TN: HE'S PROBABLY CONFUSED BECAUSE THE KANJI FOR "JOB" IS "BAITO" WHICH IS A LOAN WORD FROM GERMAN.

BUT FOR NOW HYOTTOKO I WANT YOU TO BUY A WHOLE LOT OF RED POTATOES
IF WE USE THE TOBACCO THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH
TOMORROW I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT GETTING US SOME MONEY,

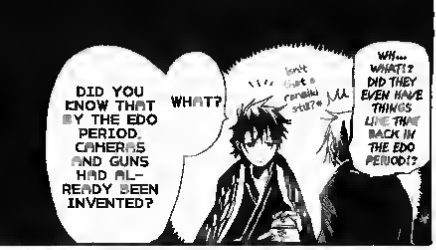
SO COULD YOU BORROW SOME COSTUMES AND MASKS?
DAMN...
THIS PLACE IS SO DIRTY LOOKS LIKE IT WOULD GO RIGHT UP IN A FIRE, DOESN'T IT?

I FIGURE WE CAN LET TOKI HANDLE THE PRODUCTION
AND YOU KNOW A GROUP OF STREET PERFORMERS, RIGHT?
POTATOES?
WHATE ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THOSE?

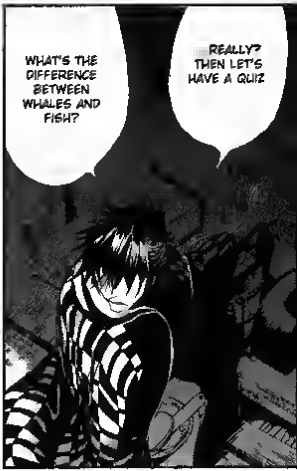

WELL, I'M OFF! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW EVENING!!


THIS PLACE LOOKS MORE LIKE A SCIENCE LAB THAN A HOUSE...

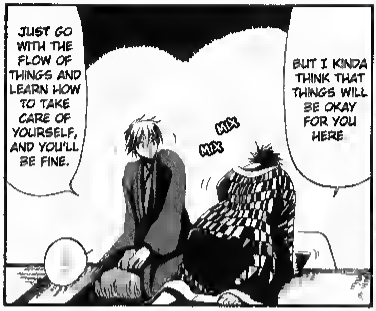
WELL, IT'S HISTORICALLY AUTHENTIC.
OKAY SO THAT'S THE PLANT!
YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD



*T/N: A MACHINE FOR DISTILLING PURE WATER BY BOILING IT AND COLLECTING THE STEAM, SOMETIMES USED IN TEA CEREMONY AND IN OLD PHARMACIES.



THERE AREN'T ANY ELECTRONICS OR MICRO-SCOPES
PEOPLE HAVEN'T SCIENTIFI-CALLY CLASSIFIED MAMMALS
THAT'S TOO BAD
?
THAT WAY OF THINK-ING WON'T WORK HERE
YUP, THAT'S HOW A MODERN PERSON WOULD THINK.
WELL I MEAN, GLASS ISN'T MADE OUT OF DIAMONDS, AND WHALES ARE MAMMALS BECAUSE... THEY JUST ARE, YOU KNOW?
THE ANSWERS DEPEND ON THE TIME AND THE PLACE.
A WHALE SWIMS IN THE OCEAN, SO IT'S JUST A BIG FISH. ANY PRETTY, SHINY STONE IS A JEWEL.
TO THINKING IN IDEAOLOGICAL TERMS.
SQUEEZE
SO YOU AND ME HAVE TO GO FROM THINKING IN SCIENTIFIC TERMS...


JUST GO WITH THE FLOW OF THINGS AND LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
BUT I KINDA THINK THAT THINGS WILL BE OKAY FOR YOU HERE.
MIK
MIK

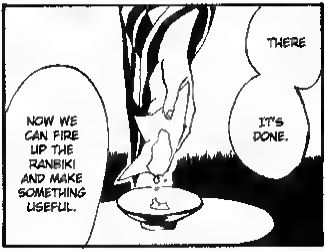
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.
HEY.
WHY DON'T WE MAKE IT A PROPER FRIENDSHIP FROM HERE ON?
YOU'RE A SURVIVOR.

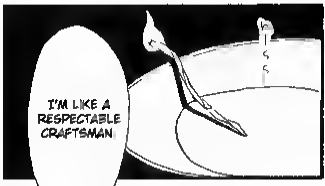
I.M.
YOU THINK SO—?
—I GUESS I'M GOOD AT GOING WITH THE FLOW—

HERE, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OXYGEN, OR CHEMISTRY, OR DNA.
CHCOOH
H2
HERE IF PEOPLE BELIEVE IN GODS AND SPIRITS AND MONSTERS THEY'RE REAL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME, BUT SINCE WE'RE FRIENDS NOW—
YOU COULDN'T HAVE JUST DYED YOUR HAIR BLACK, RIGHT? AND IT WAS BLEACHED BEFORE—
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOUR HAIR TO GROW OUT ALL BLACK AND GET THAT LONG—?
bubble bubble
BUT HOW...!? I JUST SAW YOU THE OTHER DAY IN THE MUSEUM, WHEN I GOT LOST...
YEAH, TIME DOESN'T MEAN MUCH HERE.
!?
WH... WHAT!? TWO YEARS!?
ABOUT TWO YEARS, I GUESS
CLANK
bubble bubble
WHEE
JUST CALM DOWN
CHILL OUT AND TRY TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!

I KIND OF LIKE IT HERE
NOW THAT I CAN LOOK BACK AND THINK, I NEVER HAD ANY PURPOSE BEFORE.
STIR
BUT HERE, I'M NEVER BORED
:)


THERE
IT'S DONE.
NOW WE CAN FIRE UP THE RANBIKI AND MAKE SOMETHING USEFUL.


I'M LIKE A RESPECTABLE CRAFTSMAN.

YEAH—

A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T HURT HER FACE... I WONDER WHAT YOU RAN INTO...?
OH, KUCHIHA
THOSE TWO DIDN'T COME BY TODAY, DID THEY?
NO, SIR.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM ALL DAY.
HM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
AH!
NO-
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
I WAS CARELESS AND I RAN INTO SOMETHING.
PAT
YOU'RE SO CLUMSY.
!
YES, SIR.
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S IT.

I'M GOING TO GRAB THAT BASTARD BY THE COLLAR AND TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!
SPLASH
MON-STERS!!! RIDICU-LOUS!!!
I MEAN, PEOPLE SEE A FOX SPIRIT'S TRUE FORM, AND THEY RUN AROUND IN A BLIND PANIC.
OHH...
DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE WOMAN POS-SESSED BY THE DOG GOD?
HEH
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.
BECAUSE YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT MY BRAVERY WHEN I DEFEATED THE DOG GOD.
WHAT!? YOU DON'T KNOW!?
WELL, I CAN'T READ...
IF YOU HEAD TOWARDS MY HOMETOWN, THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL THERE...
A CLAN OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SPIRIT POSSESS-SION.
ONE OF THEIR PRIESTESSES IS UNPARAL-LELED AS A HOLY ORACLE.

IT'S SAID THAT SHE HAS THE BLOOD OF A BEAST.
IT'S PASSED FROM PARENTS TO CHILD, AND THEY ALL BEAR ITS MARK.
AND IN THEIR BLOOD-LUST, THESE CURSED ONES HAVE KILLED MANY.

BECAUSE SHE HERSELF IS A DEMON.

THEY ARE A DULL-WITTED, OFFENSIVE, VIOLENT AND DANGEROUS LOT
AND IT IS SAID THAT THOSE POSSESSED BY THE DOG GOD ARE SO FOUL THAT EVEN THEIR FLESH AND BLOOD IS ROTTEN, AND IF THEY SO MUCH AS TOUCH A NORMAL HUMAN, THEY TOO WILL BE TAINTED

WELL IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS.
AND WHEN I MEET THAT FOUL CREATURE, I SHALL SLAY IT.
NOD

I'M AFRAID SO.
I'VE HEARD THAT IT LIVES NEARBY, IN THE TEMPLE.
IF THE PRIEST HAD NOT TRAPPED IT, IT WOULD PROBABLY FLEE.
TH...
THERE'S ONE OF THOSE MON-STERS AROUND HERE!?

YOU'RE VERY BRAVE, LORD SAMURAI
HAHA— HAHA!! OH NO!!
I'M NO COMMON SAMURAI!!
BY THE WAY, LORD SAMURAI...
YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR BILL YET...
HUS
HUS
WHAT!? FOR THIS CRAP!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
YOU THINK THAT I...
WOULD GIVE MONEY TO YOU!?
HEY!!
WELL I...
CLSNK
!
UM...
SFX FLARE
HM? WHAT?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
?

!?
WH
WHAT ARE YOU!?
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I AM.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE!? STAY BACK!!
SHOCK
FIRE
WHAT THE ..!?
OLD MAN!?

YOU CAN'T BE...!!
ARE YOU...
eee
WH... WHAT
GASP
SFX: -THRUST-
WAIT!
!!
!?
EEE...
SFX: RUNNING
HEY!
WAIT!! WAIT FOR ME!!
DON'T JUST LEAVE ME!!!
UWAAAH!
!!
EEE...

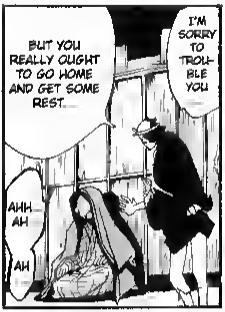
FIRE
FIRE
FLAMING TEXT: "YOU WILL SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT"
YOU WILL FEEL THE SHAME OF YOUR ACTIONS.
AH?
AH
BEE!
MEN LIKE YOU,
WHO FORCE OTHERS TO ABIDE BY THEIR WILL, DESERVE THE SAME IN RETURN.

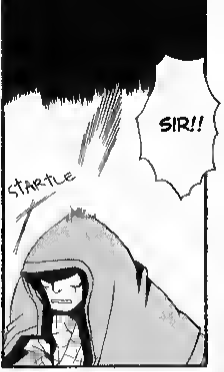
AND YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN.
DON'T OPRESS OTHERS,
DON'T ANGER ME AGAIN.
SO DON'T COM-PLAIN ...
WHEN THE POSITIONS ARE RE-VERSED.

...
WH ...
WHAT ...?

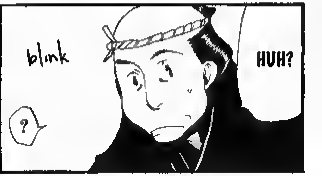
REMEMBER ME AS IF
THIS WERE BURNED INTO YOUR MEMORY.

IT... IT WAS A MONSTER, WASN'T IT!?
CHOKE


I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU...
BUT YOU REALLY OUGHT TO GO HOME AND GET SOME REST...
AHH... AH
AH


SIR!!
STARTLE

PAP...


blink
?
HUH?

collapse
SIR!?

HUH?
PK
PI

WHAT
? ? ?
Where am I...
HAP-PENED?
WAS IT...
A DREAM?

WAH!
HAH!
EEEE!
COME ON!
FIRE
SFX: SPLASH!
AH...
SPLASH
UGH!
NOT BAD!
he he he
IT WAS A DECENT PERFORMANCE, BUT YOU COULD HAVE PUT MORE FEELING INTO IT.
IT'S FINE. EVERYTHING WORKED PERFECTLY.
I'LL WIPE THAT GRIN OFF YOUR FACE!
her
her
her
WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING...!?
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO ME WHEN I TOLD YOU HOW DANGEROUS THIS WAS!? WHAT IF THE FIRE HAD GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL!?
SPLISH
SPLASH

ARE YOU SAYING YOU KNEW ABOUT THE WHOLE TRICK BEFOREHAND?
Were you hurt?
Not even close. I was still surprised.
THAT FELT GOOD.
EVERY DAY HE COMES TO EAT AND CAUSES TROUBLE.
IT WORKED! HE CRAWLED BACK HOME.
HEY OLD MAN, THANKS.
GULP
THE NE
THIS IS THE TRICK.
IT'S ETHANOL.
CH3CH2OH
WE MADE IT BY FERMENTING THE STARCH FROM THE POTATOES
How to use the ramekin
Water to cool the steam
Remove the distilled product
Heat source
BUT IT ONLY BURNS FOR A LITTLE WHILE
Oh..?
Eh?
Uuu..
THE FILM OF WATER KEEPS YOUR SKIN FROM BURNING.
THEN YOU LIGHT IT ON FIRE
Burn
IT'S ALCOHOL, SO IT BURNS REALLY EASILY.
FIRST, YOU STICK YOUR HAND IN WATER, THEN IN ETHANOL.
SPLASH

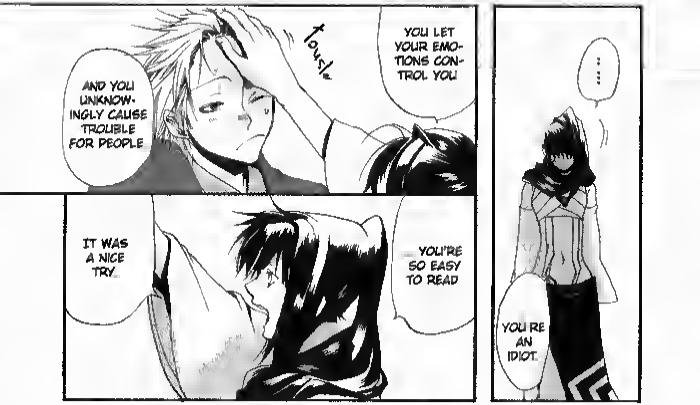
AND THEN WE PUT THE ASH IN WATER AND USED IT TO WRITE WORDS ON THE SCREEN.
WE BURNED THE TOBACCO UNTIL IT BECAME WHITE ASH.
FLAMING TEXT: WOW!
I wonder if it worked...?
THAT WAY, IT LOOKED LIKE FLAMING TEXT.
SO THEN ONLY THOSE PARTS BURNED.
THE NITRIC ACID AND POTASSIUM CATALYSED AN OXIDATION REACTION.
SO WE USED BURNT TOBACCO
SFX: ->SQUEEZING HANDS<-
I...
I'M SORRY!
WAH!
rustle
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
WELL THAT'S FINE, THEN!!
WE'LL MAKE YOU A NEW ONE.
We owe it you...
GRIN
AND I HAD FUN!
...It worked a little too well...
Ha ha ha
um...
smoke
smoke
smoke
...But now I can't use my food cart, can I?
BURNT TO A CRISP
I JUST REVISED MY OPINION OF YOU.
YOU'RE AN UNEXPECTEDLY INTERESTING GUY.
SO THE CALCULATIONS WERE A LITTLE OFF, BUT IT WENT PRETTY WELL.

I THINK KNOWING HOW TO USE THE MATERIALS WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE TOO
!
BUT...
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU KNEW ALL THAT...
BUT SHINONOME, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNEW HOW TO MAKE THE ALCOHOL, AND WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING WITHOUT THAT
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT
A COMMON LABORER LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T ACT SO UPPITY
OH YEAH? I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU DO IT!
WHAT IF I AM?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M STUPID?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, ACTING LIKE A BIG SHOT!
COMPARED TO YOU, I AM!
Heh... He he
He he

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!??
LET US SEE THE MONSTER YOU'RE HIDING HERE!!
SLAM
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING !!!
SHE'S THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS AND YOU KNOW IT!!
BECAUSE OF HER, ONE OF MY FRIENDS IS RECOVERING IN BED!
YOU'RE A PRIEST! DO YOU THINK IT'S RIGHT FOR YOU TO HIDE A MONSTER HERE!? HUH!?
SCOLD
YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING, DAMN IT!!
SURPRISE
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
<GASP>

THAT'S YOUR JOB, ISN'T IT!?
SHOULDN'T YOU EXTERMINATE IT IMMEDIATELY!?
THEY REALLY OUGHT TO QUIT THEIR BITCHING
IT SEEMS THAT A FIRE DEMON HARASSED THEM LAST NIGHT
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D FEEL BETTER... SORRY...
—THAT WAS AN IDIOTIC STUNT!! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D APPRECIATE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
BUT I WONDER WHO COULD HAVE PULLED THAT OFF?
BUT
I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD JUST PUT UP WITH
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOURSELF? YOU JUST CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR SHAMON-SAMA
SFX: ~GRITTING TEETH~

THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT ....
IT MUST ...
START TO HURT INSIDE TOO AFTER A WHILE.
YOU ALWAYS ...
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD LET YOURSELF BE HURT.
JUST ACCEPT ...


AND YOU UNKNOWINGLY CAUSE TROUBLE FOR PEOPLE
Touch
YOU LET YOUR EMOTIONS CONTROL YOU
IT WAS A NICE TRY...
YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ
.....
YOU RE AN IDIOT.

.....
THINK ABOUT IT FIRST.
BUT DON'T PLAY DRESS-UP AGAIN.
SORRY, BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO GO HOME.
scratch scratch
YAWN
AHH, IT'S TOO NOISY AROUND HERE!
I SHOULD THANK YOU
I GUESS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT GUY WAS TALKING ABOUT... THAT SAMURAI, TOO.
THERE AREN'T ANY MONSTERS OR DEMONS HERE.

I DO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER
ACTUALLY..
YOU'RE NO MONSTER. YOU'RE JUST A MORON!!!
BUT A REAL MAN DOESN'T FOOLISHLY RIDICULE OTHERS! I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY WITH YOURSELVES!
HUH?

GET BACK HERE, YOU LAZY BRATS!!
running
Eee!
GR IN
GOT IT?
SO I WANT US TO TALK LIKE I'M YOU'RE DADDY!
SHU
CKED
Hey
are you in here?

YES, AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
DID YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPENDING MONEY, KON?
WELL, IT'S BEEN GOOD SEEING YOU!
HO!
HO!
HO!
I'D RATHER LISTEN TO YOUR STORIES ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE YOU GET INTO.
YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER, BUT HONESTLY, TEACHING ISN'T THAT MUCH FUN.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
I'LL BE BACK SOON TO RETURN THE BOOK.
SO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
CLOSE
WELL, OLD MAN THE STORY IS GOING TO GET EVEN MORE INTERESTING FROM HERE ON

PEOPLE ONCE THOUGHT THAT FLYING THROUGH THE AIR WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A DREAM.
PEOPLE ONCE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
COMPARED TO THE DISTANT PAST, THE PRESENT
SEEMS LIKE A FAIRY TALE
SCIENCE HAS TURNED DREAMS INTO REALITIES
AND ONE DAY, PERHAPS ALL OF OUR DESIRES WILL BE FULFILLED
I THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO JAPAN.

AND I'D LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF THE FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVES.
THIS IS THE NEXT GENERATION IN VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY
HERE YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO SEE THIS GREAT ADVANCEMENT
LAST YEAR OUR COMPANY DEVELOPED A NEW MICROCHIP THE FIRST OF ITS KIND
YAAAWN
VISION, TOUCH HEARING IT COVERS ALL THE SENSES.
COME ON, QUIT TALKING IN CIRCLES...
WHERE I'M SURE YOU'LL SEE THE HIGH QUALITY OF OUR CUTTING EDGE PRODUCTS
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO VISIT OUR DEMONSTRATION SHOW
WELL, RIGHT NOW THE VIRTUAL REALITY BUSINESS IS JUST CHILDREN'S TOYS
THE SENSAI CORPORATION WILL GET ITS CHANCE TO SHOW OFF AT THE DEMONSTRATION
Or at least that'll get us some
YOU KNOW
THE GREATER THE ACHIVEMENTS, THE MORE ENEMIES THERE WILL BE

THIS COMPANY HAS BEEN DEVELOPING FOR TEN YEARS NOW
OUR WORK BEGINS AFTER THIS
YES, THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING
YEAH, BUT AREN'T WE REPORTERS FOR THE FINANCIAL NEWS?
NOW THEY'RE POISED TO BECOME THE LEADERS OF A NEW KIND OF FULLY IMMERSIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOR A LONG TIME, SENSAI HAS EXPANDED BY DRAWING IN SMALLER CORPORATIONS
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT SHE'S A GENIUS
I GUESS THAT'S SENSAI MIDORI
AND WHO IS THE GREATEST INNOVATOR IN THE FIELD, HASHITA?

YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
I SUPPOSE SO. IT'S ALMOST CUTE, THOUGH.
HEH SOUND'S LIKE SHE'S SHY, HUH?
AND WHEN A GENIUS LIKE THAT SPENDS YEARS WORKING ON A PROJECT, SHE WON'T REVEAL IT TO THE PUBLIC ALL AT ONCE
HOW HAS SANSEI GROWN SO LARGE?
NO ONE EVER SEES HER, SO...
!
MAYBE THAT'S SOMETHING WORTH LOOKING INTO.
OH, AND HASHI-TA... PLEASE TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF - YOU'LL GET DIABETES.
THEN GIVE ME SOME GOD-DAMNED CIGA-RETTES!!
GAH !!!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS ME!?
OH REALLY ?
THEN SHALL I LEAVE IT TO YOU, HASHITA?

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あまつき
AMATSUKI

sanada
TRANSLATOR

slashlove
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http://www.hana_mi.net/

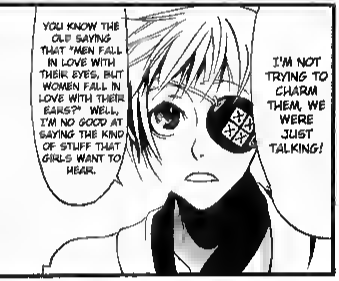
HANAMI

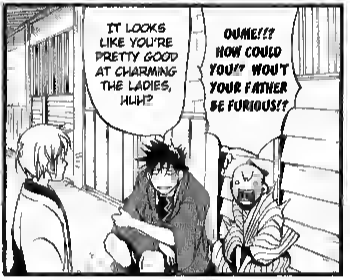
Chapter 5: The Miko's Song

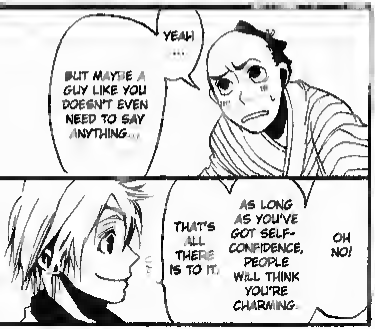
SFX ALL AROUND: -GIGGLES-
Oooh. does your father know what you're up to?
You're so sneaky ~!
Ooh, maybe we should go someplace private, then~~?
You're so bad~
Let's go Toki-chan!
COME ON, I'M SURE WE CAN SPARE SOME TIME FOR TOKI-CHAN?
WOW, REALLY?
OOH?
THIS PLACE HAS MY FAVORITE SWEETS!!
OKAY!
TOKI-CHAN!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S POPULAR.
I DON'T NEED TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU!
Unlike a certain shapeless...
sigh
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT !!
I... I'M JEALOUS
...WHAT'S GOING ON?

Eh,?
You look like a pirate...
IT LOOKS WEIRD.
OH YEAH, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ON YOUR LEFT EYE?
HUH? THIS!? OUME-SAN MADE IT FOR ME!
Don't you think it looks cool?

THAT'S JUST POURING SALT IN AN OPEN WOUND ...
GO AWAY! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ADULT STUFF!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?


YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING THAT "MEN FALL IN LOVE WITH THEIR EYES, BUT WOMEN FALL IN LOVE WITH THEIR EARS?" WELL, I'M NO GOOD AT SAYING THE KIND OF STUFF THAT GIRLS WANT TO HEAR.
I'M NOT TRYING TO CHARM THEM, WE WERE JUST TALKING!


IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT CHARMING THE LADIES, HUH?
OUME!?? HOW COULD YOU!? WON'T YOUR FATHER BE FURIOUS!?


YEAH ...
BUT MAYBE A GUY LIKE YOU DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO SAY ANYTHING...
OH NO!
AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT SELF-CONFIDENCE, PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE CHARMING.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

LOOK.. IS THIS THE FACE OF A GUY WHO COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GIRL'S HEART?
HE'S A PLAYER!!
...IS THAT HOW HE GETS ALL THOSE WOMEN...?

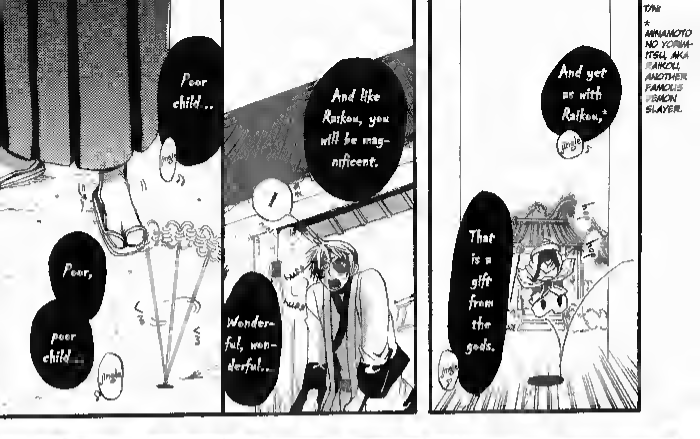
SFX: -TALKING VERY SMOOTHLY AND EASILY-
AND YET YOUR KIND FACE BESPEAKS A LONESOME TRAVELLER...
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD ALLAY YOUR LONELINESS!
YOU HAVE SUCH STRONG, MANLY EYEBROWS... YOUR GALLANT BRAVERY MOVES ME...
IF ONLY I COULD ASK YOU TO TEACH ME SUCH MANLINESS...
LIKE THIS...
COUGH
YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS
OH!!!
WELL IF THAT'S HOW YOU REALLY FEEL...
I FEEL MUCH BETTER!!!
W...
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN AN EXPERT ON LOVE!?
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
I GET IT!!
STARE
BUT IF HE WANTS, I CAN HELP...
HMM, WELL HE'S PRETTY GOOD LOOKING BUT HE'S NOT MUCH FUN
HUH!?
BUT WHAT ABOUT KON?
TOKI?
YOU'VE GOT A CUTE FACE, BUT THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN I THOUGHT
DAMN I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE BROUGHT UP, BUT WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SEDUCE PEOPLE LIKE THAT?

I OUGHTA GO SPLASH SOME COLD WATER ON MY FACE...
UM...
I...
AH!!
WHAT? WHAT DID I DO?
OH NO, IT'S NOTHING!! SORRY!!
RUNNING AWAY
TOK!?
THAT GUY...
?
THANK GOODNESS, THERE'S NO ONE HERE
SPLASH
IT ISN'T RIGHT...
WHY DO I GET ALL WORKED UP OVER STUFF LIKE THAT...?
run
run

TN: TRAVELLING PRIESTS WOULD CARRY A STAFF WITH JINGLING METAL RINGS TO FRIGHTEN AWAY ANIMALS SO THEY DO NOT INADVERTANTLY STEP ON A LIVING CREATURE.

*TN: IN BUDDHIST LEGENDS, DEMONS RIDE AROUND IN A FLAMING CHARIOT, GRAB SINNERS, AND DRAG THEM TO HELL.

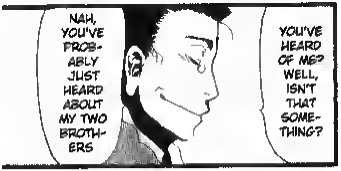
TN:
* I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE'S SAYING, AT LEAST... IT'S IN KANJI ONLY...
** MOMOTAROU IS A LEGENDARY JAPANESE PLAYER BORN FROM A PEACH.
*** SHUTEN DOUJI WAS A MAN-EATING OGRE KILLED BY THE LEGENDARY MINAMOTO RAIKOU, BUT HE'S KIND OF A SYMPATHETIC VILLAIN IN THAT HE WAS AN ABANDONED CHILD.
Where have you gone, Momotarou?
I am lost, I am lost!
This is most unpleasant...
This is most unexpected.
jingle
jingle
I have come for hell's chariot.
The child of the gods who defied them.
jingle
WHAT THE...?
That is not all...
jingle
And yet,
And yet,
He is lost, he is lost!
Poor child, pitiable child!
He is lost, he is lost!
running
QUIT IT WITH THE SONG !!!
He has the all-seeing eye.
Because he is the child of god,
YOU ...!!
Love, love - he wishes to see his mother. Attachment to the mother makes the child a demon.
jingle
jingle
There is nothing I do not know about this child, this Shuten Douji...
jingle
jingle
jingle
The boy loves his mother, does he not? And yet he hates the father who abandoned him... yes?



TN: * MINAMOTO NO YORIMITSU, AKA RAIKOU, ANOTHER FAMOUS DEMON SLAYER.

SFX: -BREATHING HARD!-

T/N: AIZU WAS A REGION OF FEUDAL JAPAN LOCATED IN MODERN-DAY FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE, A BIT NORTH OF EDO [TOKYO].

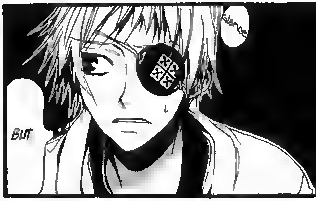


TN:: SAKAMOTO KYOUMA IS ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN AND POPULAR FIGURES IN JAPANESE HISTORY. SO EVEN TOKI WOULD HAVE HEARD OF HIM. HE WAS FROM A COMMON MERCHANT FAMILY BUT GREW TO BE VERY IMPORTANT WITHIN THE ANTI-SHOGUNATE NATIONALISTIC FORCES IN JAPAN. HE NEGOTIATED AN IMPORTANT ALLIANCE AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE. UNLIKE MANY NATIONALISTS, THOUGH, HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND WAS A VERY PROGRESSIVE THINKER WHOSE IDEALS WERE EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL. HE WAS ASSASSINATED AT AGE 33.

AND SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAME IN PERSON TO INVESTIGATE ?
WELL YOU KNOW
WORK IS WORK
AND ANYWAY,
I HAD AN OLD FRIEND I WANTED TO MEET
He He
RIGHT SHAMON ?

THIS AIN'T GOOD...
WE'RE IN NO POSITION TO PISS HIM OFF..
whisper whisper
BUT..
I'M JUST A NORMAL GUY.. HE'S GOT NOTHING ON ME...

NO WAY
YOU NORMAL?
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A BIG DEAL..
OKAY, MAYBE WE DID SOMETHING WRONG BUT...
MATTER


BUT

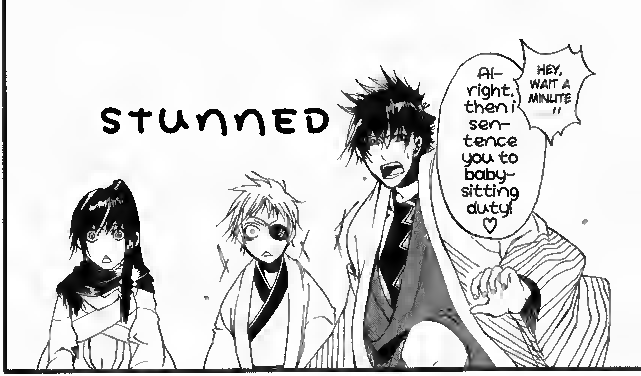
REMEMBER, WE WORK FOR THEM?
IT'S SAMURAI HIERARCHY

IF KUCHIHA'S SECRET GETS OUT...
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING..?

IN THIS TIME PERIOD,
PEOPLE CARE MORE ABOUT SOCIAL STATUS THAN THEY DO ABOUT DOING THE RIGHT THING.
WE'RE OUTSIDERS, AND HE'S A SAMURAI - WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF WE GO AGAINST HIM?
"IF YOU CAUSE TROUBLE AROUND HERE..."
GULP
I THINK
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROOF—
I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT—
SFX: HEARTBEAT
IT'S NOT UNTHINKABLE THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED COULD BE PUT TO DEATH.
I...
I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING...
grinding teeth
SHUCK!!!

I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT!!
I'M SORRY !!
IT WAS ME! I DID IT!!
!
I DID IT ALL ON MY OWN!!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
HEY
YOU IDIOT ...!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..!?

BUT IF I CAN DO THIS...
I USED TO THINK I WOULDN'T CARE, BUT...
AFTER ALL THIS...
HE'S RIGHT, WHAT AM I DOING...?
I'LL PROBABLY GET KILLED
THEN
FOR THEM
BECAUSE THIS IS JUST MY AWKWARD IMITATION OF THEIR KINDNESS!!
THEY SHOULDN'T BE SO SURPRISED...
BECAUSE I HAVE THE PERFECT PUNISHMENT IN MIND...
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CONFESSED...
Grin
Shoji
HMM.
OI, TOKI
Wave


STUNNED
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!!
Al-right, then i sen-tence you to baby-sitting duty! ♡

I want you to think about what you did wrong!!
Now this is serious ~~~~
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
...!!

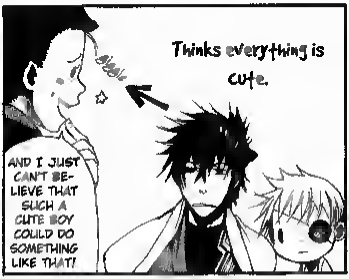
WHAT ?
Where's their group!!
Did you see the boss or his henchmen?
Sorry

A WHITE THING IS COMING.
IT'S COMING
.....MY LADY?
!!
OHH! I SEE!
THE PRINCESS SPEAKS AT LAST...!?
AS LONG AS THE GODS ... RE-QUIRE ME...
OR PERHAPS I WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE.
PLEASE MAKE PREPA-RATIONS.
THIS MAY BE MY FINAL PROPH-ECHY.

BANGING
YOU'RE ALL ANNOY-ING!!!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
BOSS !!
CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
CR
ASH
BOSS !!
THERE'S A BIG COM-MOTION AT THEIR MAN-SION!!!
WE'VE GOT TROU-BLE!!! THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!!!
SLIDE
BE QUIET.
GRAB
BOSS ...!!

BE QUIET.
SFX -SMOOTH MOTION-
EE... !!!
PLEASE HAVE MERCY ...!!
OR SHALL I SQUEEZE YOUR HEART UNTIL IT BURSTS?
BRING ME INFORMATION ON THAT APPARITION
GO
I WAS ONLY JOKING
Y... YES, SIR... !!
IVANA
SFX -DOOR SLAMMING-
SFX -RUNNING-
HOW RUDE... HE DIDN'T EVEN THANK ME.
SFX -RUNNING-

THEY'RE JUST CONVINIENT.
THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
I SUPPOSE ONLY THE GODS KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT
WELL, PRINCESS, TAKE A GOOD LOOK
WHAT ENEMY DO WE FACE THIS TIME?



THE BIZEN AND SHIGARAKI ARE TWO FAMOUS CENTERS OF TRADITIONAL POTTERY PRODUCTION. ANY WELL-EDUCATED, REFINED PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR PRODUCTS.

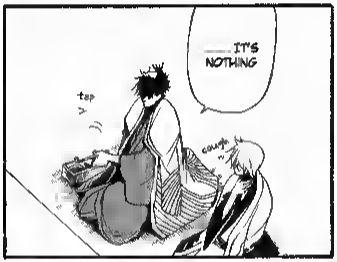
Chapter 6: A Ghostly Journey

AND ISN'T IT A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD PRETEND TO BE A DEMON AND MANIPULATE FIRE AT WILL?
I'VE HEARD STRANGE THINGS ABOUT YOU, BUT NOW THAT I'VE SEEN YOU, YOU LOOK LIKE A FAIRLY NORMAL YOUNG BOY.
TOKIDOKI-KUN.
TOD
WELL, ANYWAY.
SCIENCE? CHEMISTRY?
?
I USED SCIENCE AND CHEMISTRY AND STUFF...
AH... WELL, UM.
TOKIDOKI-KUN CERTAINLY IS SMART!
HMM, I SEE!
Smile
HMM, AND GIVEN HIS STRANGE APPEARANCE— MAYBE HE'S A STUDENT FROM OVERSEAS?
Smile
IT'S WESTERN KNOWLEDGE
Damn it!
ARRGH!! HE DOESN'T GET IT!!!
IDIOT
Grrr

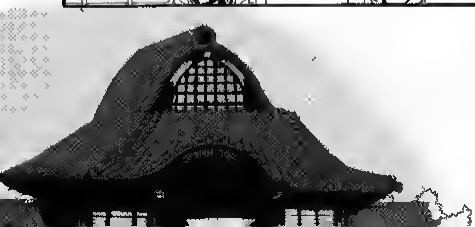
IT'S NOT JUST A PUNISHMENT, I'D REALLY LIKE TO HIRE YOU!
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT BABYSITTING DUTY?
HUH!?
slide
HEY!!
SO I'LL DEFINITELY GET BACK TO YOU ABOUT IT.
HUH?
OF COURSE, YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO MEET FIRST...
YOU'LL DO IT, RIGHT, TOKI-KUN!?
WHAT?
BUT I THINK THAT CHILD WILL LIKE YOU VERY, VERY MUCH.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID!!!
THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH!!
REALLY!? YOU WILL!?
GRAB
slip
EH...
I... UM...
YEAH SURE

tch
.....
DRAG
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
HMM?
smile
?

?
THEN I'LL COME FOR YOU IN THREE DAYS, AL-RIGHT?

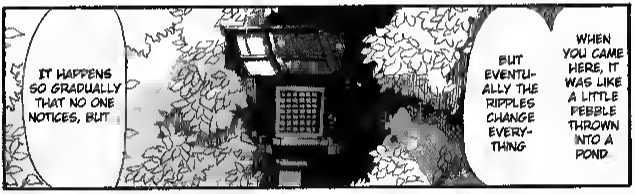

____IT'S NOTHING
tap
cough

UM.. OKAY

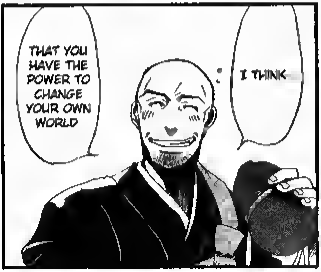


NO WAY...
Shock
YOU DEALT WITH THAT VERY WELL
WHEW...
Flop
WHY DID I SAY THAT? I SCREWED UP AGAIN...
OR AT LEAST I THINK SO...
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHAT I DID WOULD HAVE AFFECTED EVERYONE ELSE HERE...
BEFORE I CAME HERE, NOTHING I DID HAD ANY REAL CONSEQUENCES...
YOU COULD HAVE JUST RUN AWAY, RIGHT?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT

IN ZEN BUDDHISM, WE HAVE A COMMONLY HELD BELIEF
YOU COULD CALL IT A "UNIVERSAL TRUTH"
KANJI: UNIVERSAL TRUTH
"PEOPLE WILL LOOK FOR THE EASY WAY SO MUCH THAT THEY MISS THE RIGHT WAY"
OR SO IT'S SAID


WHEN YOU CAME HERE, IT WAS LIKE A LITTLE PEBBLE THROWN INTO A POND
BUT EVENTUALLY THE RIPPLES CHANGE EVERYTHING
IT HAPPENS SO GRADUALLY THAT NO ONE NOTICES, BUT

—THE POWER TO CHANGE MY OWN WORLD—


I THINK
THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR OWN WORLD

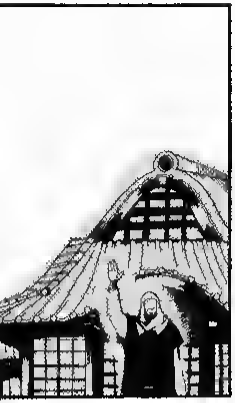
KICK
Huh 11?
GRAB
WHAT WAS THAT FOR ?!!
Pissed off
YOU IDIOT !!!!
STOMP
STOMP
WH... WHAT WAS THAT ...?
Ah, youth...
I GUESS HE THOUGHT YOU STILL NEEDED PUNISHMENT
Oh.

TOKI?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, HE DOES CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE AFTER ALL.
...I GUESS ...
...I GUESS HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME...
ISN'T THAT YOUR DOING?

TA
DA
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!
COME ON, LET'S GO?
uwaa
aah...

WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE BACK SOON...
OKAY

LOOK AT THESE BUFF AND BEAUTIFUL MEN I'VE BROUGHT!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
bounce
bounce
I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS



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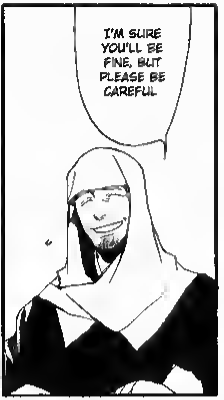

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE, BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL

WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL RUN INTO.
JUST IN CASE
.....
IT'S SAFE
HEY WHY DO YOU HAVE A SWORD?
rummage
rummage

YOU GUYS ARE COMING TOO?
.....
Huh?

UHH...
SPEECHLESS
YUP.
AND WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH THAT WEIRDO
huff
huff
WE, UH..
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SLACK OFF!!
.....
I THOUGHT YOU CAME BECAUSE SHAMON-SAN ASKED YOU TO. .
YOU CAME ON YOUR OWN?
snort
YOU THINK WE HAVE THAT MUCH FREE TIME!? NO WAY...!! ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!
WHAT !!?
HORROR

I USED TO HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS...
...
HUH?
WHAT DID I DO!?
WHY DO I HAVE TO JUSTIFY MY ACTIONS TO YOU!!!!
PUNCH
BUT NOW...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS HOW IT SHOULD BE.
WE NEVER ARGUED AND WE GOT ALONG PRETTY WELL.
IT'S KIND OF A ROUGH AND AWKWARD FRIENDSHIP...
He he he he he he
He he
BUT...
I'M HAPPY HERE.

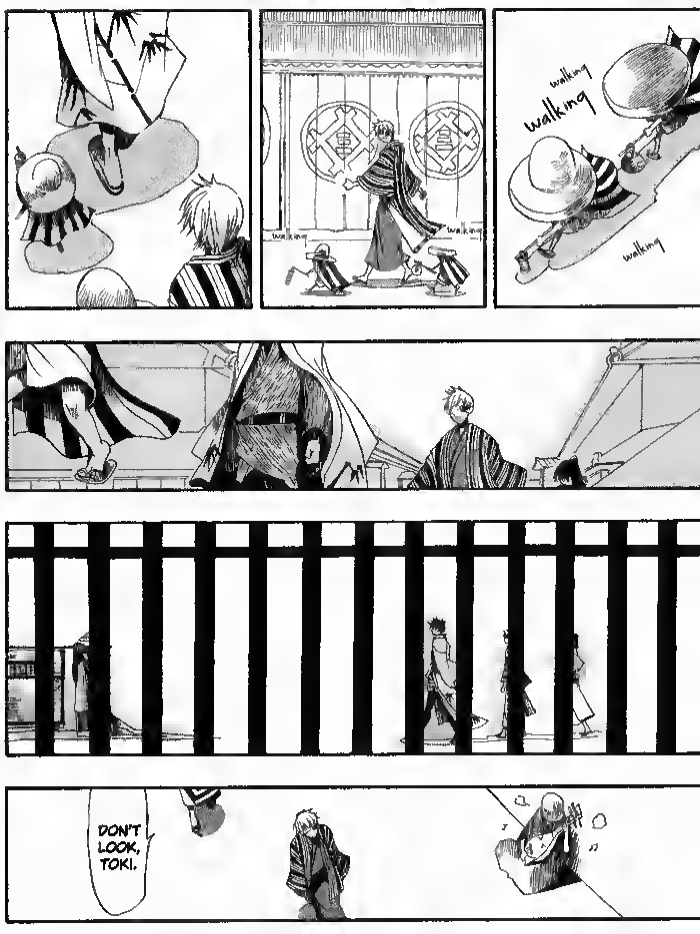
Wow! That's a huge store!!!
SFX IN BUBBLES: ~CHOW!~ NOISE~
What is it!? What is it!?
It's a dry goods shop isn't it!?
SHUT UP !!!
Hey! Look at that!!
Wah! Hey, we can buy kimono there!!!
Oooh look at that wouldn't Kuchina look good in that !!
sparkle
sparkle
THAT LOOKS LIKE SHIT! NOW LET ME GO!!!
IF YOU KEEP LOOKING AROUND, YOU'LL GET LOST!!

LO- -OK

Come, it's just a little farther.
pleading
pleading
pleading
THERE!
THERE IT IS!
pleading
If you lose the way, you may never return.

HE SAYS NO ONE ELSE CAN GO.
BUT HE ALWAYS GOES ALONE WITHOUT AN ESCORT.
SHAMON-SAMA HAS COME HERE ONCE IN A WHILE FOR A LONG TIME.
HEY... WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GUY ALL OF A SUDDEN?

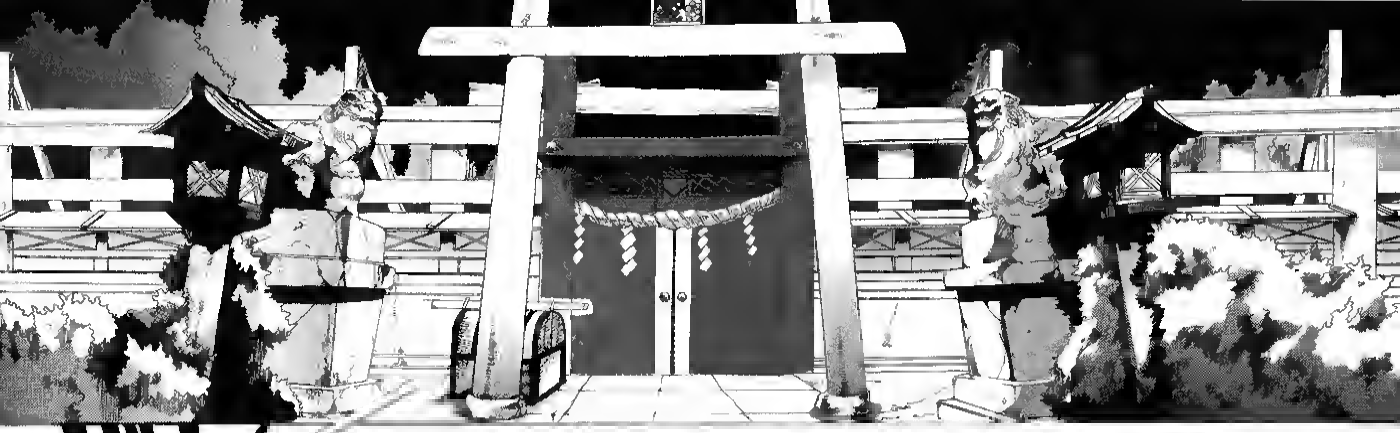
HMMM
BUT HE'S NOT A BAD GUY,
RIGHT?
HE'S SHAMON-SAMA'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY—?
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
WE HAVE TO GO!
Y-YEAH.
sigh
MOVING SLOWLY
walking
walking
walking


walking
walking
walking
walking
walking
DON'T LOOK, TOKI.

IF YOU LOOK, YOU MIGHT GET STUCK HERE.
IT'S NOT REAL...
IF YOU LOSE YOUR WAY, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.
THIS IS THE GHOST ROAD

I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S THE ROAD BETWEEN THE SPIRIT WORLD AND OUR WORLD. I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE LONGER THAN I HAVE TO.
WE SHOULD GO AS FAST AS WE CAN, AND NOT LOOK AT ANYTHING.
...
KUCHIHA ?
...YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD...
ARE YOU ...
SFX: -BREATHING HARD-
I JUST DON'T DO WELL IN PLACES LIKE THIS
!?
OOO...
!!?
KUCHIHA !?
I'M FINE !!
I'M OKAY !!!
THIS IS NOTH-ING!!
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING !!!
...

OKAY
GRAB
YOU CAN MAKE IT!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE MADE IT.

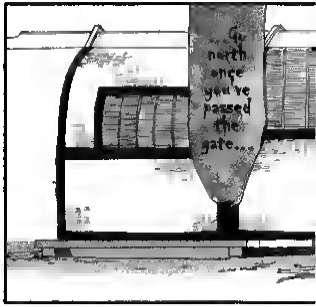


!?

IT'S HUGE ...

Ahaha
I guess
that's why
ehhh...

WHY WON'T HE COME OUT?


So north once you've passed the gate...

IT'S JUST US NOW?
SO I GUESS

MAYBE WE CAN HOPE THERE ARE CUTE GIRLS INSIDE—
THEN WOULD YOU RATHER GO BACK WITH THE GHOSTS?
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

SFX: -CREAK-
YEAH !!

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あまつき
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sanada
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slashlove
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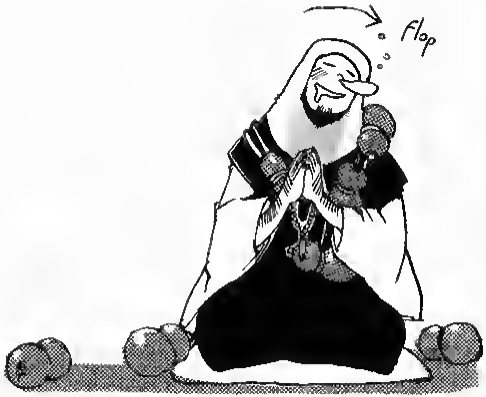
HANAMI

Chapter 7:
Turn Back or Keep Going?


Flop

rustle
SO I GUESS THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT BY "GO NORTH", HUH?
BUT WHICH WAY IS NORTH?
rustle
THERE'S ONLY ONE PATH SO I GUESS WE CAN'T GET LOST ANYWAY
rustle
rustle
rustle
huff
huff
huff
huff
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST
.....
I feel much better now!
...SHOULDN'T WE SEE THE BUILDING BY NOW..?

chirp
chirp
I DIDN'T EVEN GO TO ANY CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING PARTIES THIS YEAR
sigh
OH, A NIGHTINGALE I HADN'T EVEN NOTICED IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF SPRING AL-READY

WHAT IF WE CAN'T EVEN FIND THE PLACE!!?
b
but
...
NEXT TIME, WE'LL HAVE TO BRING SHAMON-SAMA ALONG!!
sparkle
sparkle
sparkle
CRUSHED

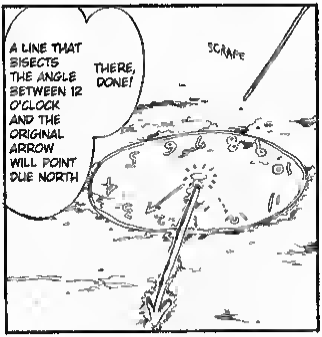
HEY... HAVE YOU TWO NOTICED?
...
crushed
crushed
MODERN WOMEN HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY LESS DEMANDING...
EVEN A MINUTE IS A LONG TIME!
IF YOU STOPPED SLACKING OFF, WE'D BE THERE BY NOW!
AND IT'S PRETTY WEIRD THAT IN TWO HOURS, WE HAVEN'T SEEN A SIGN OF ANY BUILDINGS OR ANYTHING...
WE'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND FOR TWO HOURS NOW AND THE SUN HASN'T MOVED AT ALL...
WHAT KIND OF WELCOME IS THAT?
scratch
DAMN IT!!
huff
YOU DON'T THINK... WE'RE BEING TRICKED, DO YOU?

HUH?
THE ANSWER'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG!!
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE THAT PEOPLE USED TO TELL TIME BY THE HEIGHT OF THE SUN?
Sudden thought
YOU KNOW, WHEN WE FIRST MET IN THE MACHIAI?
IF YOU'RE GONNA GIVE DIRECTIONS, GIVE GOOD ONES, YOU JERK!
STUPID OLD MAN... THIS REALLY PISSES ME OFF... "GO NORTH." WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN!?
Huffff
Huffff
store
Huffff
THE HOUR OF THE SHEEP IS A LITTLE AFTER LUNCHTIME SO BETWEEN 1 AND 3 IN THE AFTERNOON
Snap
!!
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S AROUND THE HOUR OF THE SHEEP.
SIT
SCRATCH
?
OKAY, THEN JUST WAIT.

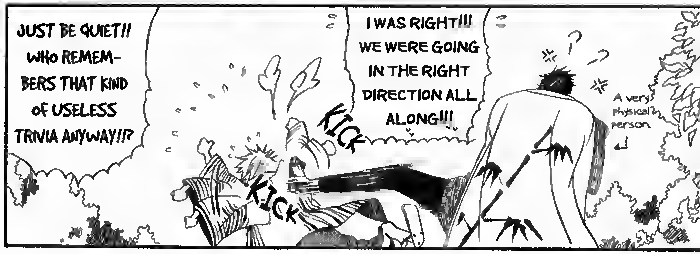
THIS LINE IS POINTING TOWARDS THE SUN, RIGHT?
AND IT'S SOMETIME BETWEEN 1 O'CLOCK AND 3 O'CLOCK, SO I'LL GUESS AND DRAW IT LIKE THIS
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

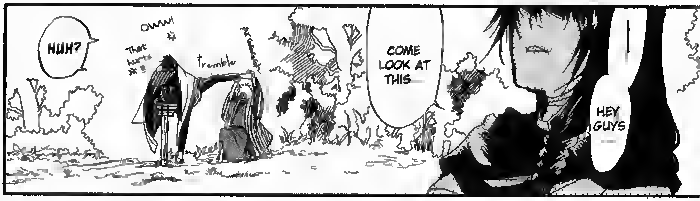
NOW USING THIS AS A REFERENCE, I'LL MAKE A LINE TO 12 O'CLOCK
AND I'LL FILL IN THE REST SO IT'S LIKE A CLOCK
?
?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

SO NORTH IS THAT WAY
Huh...?


A LINE THAT BISECTS THE ANGLE BETWEEN 12 O'CLOCK AND THE ORIGINAL ARROW WILL POINT DUE NORTH
THERE, DONE!
SCRAPE

THAT IS SO NOT FUNNY. SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN THE BRAINS OF THIS OPERATION?
.....?
WE'VE BEEN GOING THAT WAY ALL ALONG.
HM?


JUST BE QUIET!! WHO REMEMBERS THAT KIND OF USELESS TRIVIA ANYWAY!!?
KICK
KICK
I WAS RIGHT!!! WE WERE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ALL ALONG!!!
A very physical person.


HUH?
OHHH!
That kinda...
Trouble.
COME LOOK AT THIS
HEY GUYS

HUH?
FROM HERE, THE SUN IS THAT WAY.
SFX: ~SURPRISE~
NO!! I MEAN IF YOU STAND HERE AND LOOK, IT'S THAT WAY!!!
?
WHAT ARE YOU TAKING ABOUT? THE SUN IS THAT WAY, ISN'T IT!?
POINT
WHAT THE HELL...?
POINT
AIN'T RIGHT...
Damned straight.
THIS JUST

WELL THIS IS A PAIN... I GUESS THERE'S A MAGIC BARRIER THAT SCREWS UP DIRECTIONS SO INTRUDERS CAN'T GET IN...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
UM... BUT WE DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW WHICH DIRECTION WE'RE GOING...
Is she a shrine maiden that were famous for?
And what's with this magic barrier stuff?
WHO KNOWS.
I GUESS WE SHOULD JUST DO WHAT THE GUY SAID AND KEEP GOING NORTH UNTIL IT GETS DARK...
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE HERE, SO YOU FIGURE IT OUT!
!!

SO THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY TAKING "THREE STEPS FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK," HUH?
OKAY!!
NOW THE SUN'S MOVED OVER THERE!!
LET'S GO BACK!
LEMME CHECK THE POSITION OF THE SUN AGAIN
AH...!! A BUILDING!!
HUH?
THERE!! THERE IT IS...!!
FINALLY...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT!!

GREAT, TOKI. NOW HOW ABOUT LETTING SOMEONE COMPETENT TAKE THE LEAD?
HEY!
YOU HAD IT ALL WRONG TOO! WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE WITHOUT ME!?
I'M SORRY I'M VERY THANKFUL.
HEH
MAYBE YOU GUYS SHOULD SHAVE YOUR HEADS IN REPENTANCE--?
KUCHIHA
...!?

NO WAY, GUYS, THAT'S TOO MEAN...
Ah!?
SFX: -GULP-
SFX: -GULP-
HUH!?
GURGLE
UWAAH ..!? WHAT IS THIS ..!?

!
HUH?
SURPRISE
POP
FW
BLINK
.....EH?
.....TOKI?
sta—re
slide
HUH? WHERE DID HE GO?
.....
BLINK

I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
SO MUCH WEIRD SHIT HAPPENS TO ME THAT I OUGHTA BE USED TO IT BY NOW...
ARGHH
flail
flail
THIS TIME I'M SINKING INTO THE FLOOR...
...HMM. SO YOU'VE FALLEN DOWN HERE. YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY CALM.
OH!
tap
I GUESS THIS IS THE BOTTOM.
jingle
INTEREST-ING... VERY INTERESTING.

I SEE YOU MADE IT THROUGH MY TRICK ROAD
AND ALL ON YOUR OWN WIT...
I SEE WHY THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN WATCHING YOU.
TO HAVE DONE THAT WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PLACE...
WHO ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT SCARING ME WITH THAT ACT
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, SO...
TAKE ME BACK TO WHERE I CAME FROM.

WHEN I MET HIM, I KNEW...
BUT I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO ARE ALL PRIDE WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.
AND I HATE STUPID PEOPLE MOST OF ALL
CHEEKY LITTLE THING, AREN'T YOU?
NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH A STRONG WILL
HEY, WHICH DO YOU THINK IS SUPERIOR - TO BE A HUMAN OR TO BE A ROBOT?
THAT HE WAS...
SOMEONE WHO HAD SUFFERED GREATLY...

THE ANSWER, OF COURSE IS THE HUMAN MIND
THE DATA PROCESSING CAPABILITY OF A NEURON IS MUCH GREATER THAN THAT OF A COMPUTER CIRCUIT HOWEVER.
IF THAT POWER GOES UNUSED, THEN A HUMAN IS OF NO MORE WORTH THAN A LUMP OF METAL.
ARE YOU
ARE YOU FROM THIS WORLD!?
THAT'S SUCH AN INELEGANT WAY OF PUTTING IT
I AM AN "AMAYO NO TSUKI" - "SEEING THE MOON ON A RAINY NIGHT," AS THEY SAY IT HAS THE MEANING OF SOMETHING STRANGE, SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE "AMATSUKI" FOR SHORT
THE PRINCESS CALLS THE WORLD ON THE OTHER SIDE "NIRVANA."
SOON YOU WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO PATHS

OR PROTECT THE AMATSUKI AND BECOME ITS MASTER ...?
WILL YOU DESTROY THE PRINCESS AND THE AMATSUKI AND RETURN TO NIRVANA,

WH— WHO ARE YOU—? WHY DO YOU KNOW THIS—!?
THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU MY NAME
ME?
I SHALL GIVE YOU MY COMMON NAME
SFX: —WHOOSH—
FROM MY TITLE OF "THE AWAKENED ONE" COMES "BON" "HOLINESS"
FROM MY TITLE OF "THE LOFTY OBSERVER" COMES "TEN" "SKY"
SO IF YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION, YOU MAY CALL ME "BONTEN."
!?
WINGS
!?
!?

IF YOU ARE PROVEN WORTHY, YOU WILL RECEIVE STRENGTH AND KNOWLEDGE AND ANYTHING YOU DESIRE
AND THEN.
Flap
Flap
I WILL SERVE ONLY YOU
SFX: -WHOOSH-
SFX: -WHIP-
WAHH!!

AH!
AH!
AH?
AH!
AH!
AH!
plop
YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS RIGHT NOW. PLEASE WAIT.
DOOR OPENING
...OY, YOU AWAKE?
TOKI?

HMM...
AH!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!!!
SHOVE
EEEEE!
door slamming
LOOKS LIKE I'M INTERRUPTING
CHILL OUT YOU'RE ANNOYING.
CLUNK
sputter
WHO IS SHE!? WHAT AM I DOING HERE!?
?!
WHERE AM I!? WHY WAS I SLEEPING HERE!?
Uhmm

IT'S JUST A ROOM INSIDE THE SHRINE.
WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE UNTIL YOU WOKE UP.
THAT WAS WEIRD... IT WAS LIKE YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.
BUT THEN SHE APPEARED AND SHOWED US AROUND THE SHRINE SO WE COULD LOOK FOR YOU.
I GUESS YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN A HARD FALL ON THE STONE PAVEMENT OR SOMETHING, SO BORROWED A ROOM FOR YOU TO REST IN
OH— YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT SO WHO IS SHE?
Sorry, she's my sis.
Smile
SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST KNOW HER NAME?
ha ha
hmm
YOU WISH TO KNOW MY DUTY? I AM HERE TO ATTEND TO THE GUESTS
YES
YOU MUST BE HERE TO SEE THE MIKO PRINCESS, RIGHT?
SO— YOU WORK AT THIS SHRINE?

SERIALISED IN MONTHLY COMIC ZERO SUM. FROM SEPTEMBER HEISEI 16 TO MARCH HEISEI 17

*PIC ->SQUEEZING HANDS<-

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VOLUME 1

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AMATSUKI

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TRANSLATOR

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RAWS PROVIDER

0413
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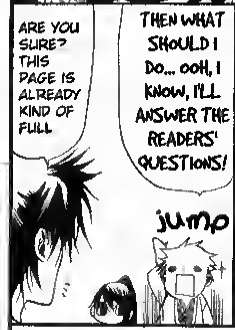

I just want to thank everyone who helped me on the way to my first collected volume of work.. this is my first serialization so this is my first time writing author's notes, and I'm not quite sure what to say... sometimes I work so hard I can't get up and I just fall asleep in my chair, but if you sleep in a chair you could get deep vein thrombosis and die of a pulmonary embolism, and that kind of worries me..

I'LL JUST LEAVE THIS UP TO YOUR IMAGINATION
DON'T GO IMAGINING ANYTHING !!!
Umm
DON'T EVEN LOOK AT US!!
WELL, FUNDOSHI ARE MADE OUT OF CLOTH AND KON CAN'T SEW, SO I DID THE SEWING
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT FOR THE FIRST VOLUME!? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING!!?
Who wants to know...?
I made it for him!
Ahaha!
IF YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN EDO PERIOD COOKING, THERE'S ALSO THE "GREAT EDO COOKBOOK" BY FUKUDA HIROSHI AND MATSUFUJI SHOUHEI, PUBLISHED BY SHINCHOUSHA IT'S GOOD TOO
JAPAN VISUAL HISTORY
COOKING AND EATING HABITS
DURING THE EDO PERIOD
Edited by HARADA NOBUO
Published by SHOUGAKUKAN
Just follow the detailed instructions.
NEXT, WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO FIND A RECIPE FOR CLAM RICE
The recipes include rice tofu soup stock vegetables meat and other things The historical cooking methods are pretty interesting
IF YOU'D LIKE TO TRY IT, LOOK HERE
十条 若桜
JUJO WAKASA
AGE 19, 178CM 65KG
People call him Frankie Joe" His hobby is collecting junk His favorite sport s bowling Lately he worries that electromagnetic fields are affecting his eyesight He s started calling h mself a genius hacker but really he s just a geek He s secretly proud that he gets his meals from a vending machine instead of a refrigerator He dislikes hangovers and saunas His motto is "Profit from other people s mistakes"
LET'S START WITH THIS GUY
AND NOW WE'LL DO CHARACTER PROFILES!
PULL!
Negi-san It's great working with you! Kaien-san you too!

MASHIRO
BUT THE OTHER PROFILES WEREN'T READY YET!!!
IDIOT! IF THEY DON'T SHOW UP IN THE FIRST VOLUME, THEY'RE NOT A MAIN CHARACTER!!
I DUNNO, MAYBE GOGGLE-BOY SHOWS UP IN CHAPTER 2?
HUH...? WHO'S THIS GUY?
Look, we're filling up 3 pages!
stare
ZERO SUM
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
?!
I WONDER IF SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO BE DROPPED AS A RECURRING CHARACTER?
ha ha ha
LOOK AT THIS LETTER. IT SAYS "UNTIL NOW, MY FAVORITE CHARACTER WAS KON, BUT AS SOON AS BONTEN APPEARED, HE MOVED RIGHT UP TO #1!"
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO AMATSUKI VOLUME 2!
YEAH, I REEEALLY DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG
IS THAT ALRIGHT, MY DEARS?
I think we're bring any shoulders
IT CAN'T BE HELPED - I MUST GIVE MY FANS WHAT THEY WANT! BUT WE MUST PART UNTIL NEXT TIME!
He's my partner
Nishiyama-san, Ryu-san, Sengoku-san, Nakafumi-san - thank you so much...!
THE END

SPECIAL THANKS

- Kaiha-San
- Nagi-San
- Seiho-San
- everyone at Nanikou
- and my family

Thank you everone!!

REFERENCES

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KODOMO NO TAME NO TETSUGAKU TAIWA ("A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO CHILD COMMUNICATION") BY NAGAI HITOSHI PUBLISHED BY KOUDANSHA

SENGO BENRICHOU ("A GUIDE TO ZEN THOUGHT") COMPILED BY SHUFUNOTOMOSHA

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KATARI NO SEKAI ("THE WORLD OF WORDS") BY NISHIKAWA TERUKO PUBLISHED BY KEISHOURYAKU

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